

JPRS 79170

8 October 1981

Sub-Saharan Africa Report

No. 2499

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COUPS POINT UP WEST AFRICAN INSTABILITY

Nairobi THE WEEKLY REVIEW in English 11 Sep 81 pp 16-17

[Text]

THE military take-over in the Central African Republic last Tuesday demonstrated once again that the coup is the way to change governments in West and Central Africa. In this region, governments are rarely changed by any other method. Scarcely a month passes without a coup or a coup attempt somewhere in Africa. In late July and early August the spotlight was on the tiny state of Gambia, a country which had long enjoyed a reputation for political stability. A 28-year-old leftist politician, Kukoi Samba Sanyang, led an unsuccessful revolt in which more than 500 people died. The Gambian president, Sir Dawda Jawara, called in Senegalese troops to crush the rebellion.

Just as Gambia was returning to a semblance of normality, the news broke that the number two man in Liberia, Major-General Thomas Wen Syen, was accused of plotting to assassinate head of state, Mr. Samuel Doe, and take over the government. A Liberian firing squad executed Wen Syen and four other alleged plotters on August 14. Two weeks later the army leader in the Central African Republic, General Andre Kolingba, demanded and obtained the resignation of President David Dacko. Then he took over himself.

One of his first measures was to suspend all political parties. The coup confirmed a trend towards the virtual obliteration of multi-party politics in

French-speaking Africa, though Kolingba did say that elections would be held later. The only Francophone state in West Africa which still has a multi-party system is Senegal. An army coup ended Upper Volta's parliamentary system last November.

In English-speaking West Africa, the situation is somewhat different. Of the four former British colonies, three currently have a multi-party system — Nigeria, Ghana and Gambia. Only Sierra Leone is a one-party state. Only once in West Africa has an opposition party come to power through elections. It happens in Sierra Leone (formerly a multi-party state) in March 1967 when Mr. Siaka Stevens' All People's Congress defeated the ruling Sierra Leone People's Party of Sir Albert Margai. Stevens was not allowed to savour his victory for long. Within hours he was ousted by the head of the army, a Margai supporter. The following year, however, he was back in office.

When it happens, the first peaceful transfer of power from one party to another in West Africa is likely to attract considerable attention in the region. Ghana, a country with a long history of military coups, could paradoxically be the first country in the region where such a change takes place. Inept and corrupt military rule was a major reason for Ghana's economic decline and an overwhelming majority of Ghanians appear ready to give the present system a chance.

The ruling People's National Party (PNP) holds only 71 seats in the 140-seat parliament and could lose the next elections to five opposition parties with a total of 67 seats which recently announced a merger. In terms of political stability and economic progress, there is little doubt that the most successful formula to date in West Africa has been the one-party system, though even this is not always proof against coups.

Ivory Coast, where every salaried citizen pays compulsory dues to the ruling democratic party, has an impressive record of economic growth and has not known a single coup in its 21 years of independence. President Felix Houphouët-Boigny has said that because of the continuing importance of tribal loyalties, the country is not yet ready for multi-party politics.

Cameroun, a country with 270 ethnic groups, had about 200 parties before independence and went through a period of serious political violence. President Ahmadou Ahidjo turned Cameroun into a one-party state in 1966 and the country is now forging ahead economically faster than any other state in West Africa. In the whole of the region, only five states have never known a successful coup — Ivory Coast, Cameroun, Guinea, Gambia and Cape Verde. And only Cape Verde has never had an attempted coup.

It is hard to generalise about the dozens and dozens of coups which have rocked the region, but the upheavals bear witness to profound social and economic problems. Sub-Saharan Africa is the only part of the world where per capita food production is declining — and populations of hungry people do not make for political stability. Coup-makers usually accuse the governments they overthrow of mis-managing the economy. When they overthrow multi-party systems they blame the politicians for squabbling and ignoring the real problems of the nation. Sometimes the coup-makers do actually make a better job of running the economy than the people they toppled.

President Seyni Kountche of Niger, who ousted Mr. Hamani Diori in 1974 at a cost of about 100 lives, is widely respected as one of the most upright, effective leaders in Africa. Under his leadership Niger has moved forward economically, carefully investing its revenue from uranium. But more often coup leaders make no more impact on economic problems than their predecessors and even make things worse. The young sergeants and corporals who took over Liberia in April 1980 gave the country a severe economic jolt. Capital fled from Liberia, especially after the soldiers executed 15 senior officials of the deposed government. Most of the new rulers were in their twenties and knew nothing of how to run a country.

Although the soldiers made common cause with civilian intellectuals, this governmental alliance is now collapsing and most political observers see Liberia as passing through a period of profound political and economic difficulties. The Liberian experience has had an important impact on politically-minded West Africans. Significantly, there was very little criticism of the Senegalese government when it sent its troops to put down Sanyang's rebellion at the end of July. Sanyang, at 28, was the same age as Doe when he took over Liberia.

The awareness that coups can make things worse does not, however, diminish the longing for political change which many people in the region feel. This longing for change is particularly acute in Sierra Leone, where trade unionists launched a general strike recently to try to extract major economic reforms from the government of President Stevens, 76. Mr. Leopold Sedar Senghor carved a solid place for himself in West African history last December when he retired and voluntarily handed the presidency of Senegal to Mr. Abdou Diouf, his prime minister. Many West Africans in other countries wish their leaders would follow Senghor's example and let the capable members of the younger generation take over peacefully.

GUINEA-BISSAU, SENEGAL SIGN COOPERATION AGREEMENTS

Bissau NO PINTCHA in Portuguese 8 Aug 81 p 8

[Text] Three new cooperation agreements were signed during the sixth session of the Guinea-Bissau-Senegal high mixed commission, in Dakar from 28 to 30 July 1981. The new agreements cover forests, rural waters and technical assistance.

With regard to forests, the two neighboring countries agreed to coordinate national legislation on the exploitation of forest products and the protection of fauna. Regarding technical assistance, they agreed to have Senegalese cooperants work in Bissau.

In the cultural and social fields, the two parties signed the protocol for 1982-1983. The terms of this protocol provide for various exchanges in the fields of culture, education, secondary teaching, information, social action, youth and sports.

As for health, the two parties agreed to continue negotiations on the project agreement on public health. The agreement would allow the two countries to establish active cooperation within this sector and in addition to coordinate the strategy for the fight against endemic diseases, both on the bilateral level and within the framework of regional and subregional organization.

The two delegations reviewed cooperation in commerce, customs, agriculture, fishing, transportation, post and telecommunications, and scientific and technical research.

The decision to continue and strengthen bilateral cooperation was reaffirmed, on both the subregional and regional levels and within the framework of friendship and solidarity between the two peoples.

During the meeting, the heads of the delegations reviewed the major political and economic problems most notable in Africa and the world today. There was agreement on the questions discussed, notably on maintaining peace, international security, decolonization and the fight against racial discrimination.

The two delegations expressed their satisfaction over the fraternal atmosphere of the meeting and our delegation thanked the government and people of Senegal for the warm and brotherly welcome accorded them during their stay. The seventh session will be held next year in Guinea-Bissau.

Our delegation was led by Comrade Victor Saude Maria, vice president of the Revolutionary Council and minister of foreign affairs, and the Senegalese delegation by Moustapha Niasse, minister of foreign affairs. "We are satisfied with the results," said Comrade Victor Saude Maria, vice president of the Revolutionary Council and minister of foreign affairs and leader of our delegation to the sixth session of the Guinea-Bissau-Senegal high mixed commission, upon his arrival from Dakar last Monday.

The comrade vice president of the Revolutionary Council stressed the importance of the arrival of Senegalese cooperants in our country since, according to him, Senegal has a great deal of expertise. The Guinea-Bissau official praised the way in which the meeting was prepared, which contributed to the good results that were achieved.

The question of defining the maritime border was not addressed in this session because, the Guinea-Bissau foreign minister recalled, there is a special sub-commission to analyze the matter, and it will meet soon in Dakar.

Regarding the situation in Gambia, Comrade Victor Saude Maria said that the problem is a domestic issue and the solution is entirely up to the Gambian people. He also noted that he met with Presidents Abdou Diouf of Senegal and Dawda Jawara of Gambia.

9845

CSO: 4728/118

OAU SEEKS MORE FUNDS FOR REFUGEES

Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 9 Sep 81 p 1

[Article by Mkumbwa Ally]

[Text]

THE Organisation of African Unity (OAU) will organise another international conference on African refugees to mobilise funds for refugee assistance programmes in the continent, the Dar es Salaam international workshop on rural refugee settlements was told yesterday.

A representative of the OAU refugees office in Addis Ababa, Mr. Andrew Kishindo, explained that arrangements for the conference were being made, adding that it would take place "in the next two years".

He, however, told the participants from six East and Southern African countries that the refugee problem was a principal responsibility of the African states and appealed for team work in solving it.

He lamented that only a half of the 1,000 million US dollars (8,000million/-) estimated to be raised at the Paris International Conference on Assistance for Refugees in Africa (IEARA), was realised.

"We are planning to hold another conference, possibly in 1983, to solicit for more funds to finance refugee assistance projects on the continent", he said.

He pledged his organisation's continued co-operation with the United

Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and the international community in solving the refugee problem.

Mr. Kisindo said the OAU Committee on Refugees in Africa — comprising 15 member states, some of which are represented at the workshop — would make extensive visits to educate African countries on their responsibilities on the problem.

The committee, he said, had visited various countries, adding that more missions were planned for Southern African countries this year.

The OAU representative urged member countries to utilize assistance funds on specified projects and warned against reports that some countries diverted for other purposes, funds provided for refugee work.

"We are still investigating the reports, but it should be made clear that funds donated for refugee settlements should be used for nothing but refugees", he said.

The workshop participants, meanwhile, called on the continental organisation to evolve a comprehensive formula to tackle the root causes of the refugee problem.

A representative of the Sudanese government, Ndugu Ahmed Karadawi, said the ideal solution for the problem was voluntary repatriation but pointed out that this would not be achieved unless the causes for fleeing were routed out.

Ndugu S.A. Kamanzi, a former Rwandese refugee, told the

workshop that the decolonisation process and imperialist interests in Africa contributed to the refugee problem and that efforts to solve it should take these into account.

Earlier, Ndugu E.A. Regusha of the Dar es Salaam University's Economic Research Bureau, said a research on spontaneous settlements in Kigoma Region undertaken by his bureau suggested that UNHCR should extend assistance to the refugees instead of moving them to organised settlements.

He told the workshop in a paper on spontaneous settlements, that implementation of the recommendation would benefit Tanzanians living with the refugees apart from springing the latter further disturbance.

Most of the 23,000 refugees surveyed had stayed in the border region for the last nine years, he explained, adding that moving them away would amount to "uprooting them for a new start."

The contention was supported by the workshop after a long debate in which some participants complained that spontaneous refugees were "a security risk" and "a hindrance to maintenance of law and order" in the host country.

However, UNHCR research project co-ordinator Omar Bakhet, explained that the type of settlements to be formed was a matter of policy of the host country.

The workshop, drawing participants from Sudan, Somalia, Zambia, Swaziland, Botswana and Tanzania, ended yesterday evening after adopting a number of recommendations. (Story tomorrow).

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

AFRICANS CULTIVATE, CONSUME MORE WHEAT, BARLEY

Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 11 Sep 81 p 4

[Article by Ronald Watts: "Major Wheat Growing Plan"]

[Text] African countries are rapidly increasing their consumption of the new temperate cereal crops wheat and barley. Some 15 percent of world exports of wheat go to African countries. And with prices expected to double or treble in the next two years there is an obvious interest in growing more of these crops locally.

Among the countries with ambitious plans to expand production are Nigeria, Zambia and Kenya. In a few years Zimbabwe has already moved from being mainly an importer to self-sufficiency in wheat.

Mozambique has recently launched an ambitious 15,000 ha scheme to grow the crop in Niassa Province near to Lake Nyasa.

Both wheat and barley are still mainly temperate crops and there is evidence that wheat was grown in Britain the third century BC.

Much earlier evidence comes from Egypt and Iraq. According to the standard text "Wheat" (in the Leonard Hill Books World Crop series), several subspecies of wheat originate from Ethiopia. Tropical African countries can grow spring wheat and barley successfully if, like Kenya and Tanzania, they have high altitude areas.

Further from the equator in countries such as Zambia and Zimbabwe, where the May to September period is dry and cool, wheat can be grown with irrigation. The northern states of Nigeria have similar conditions in November to March.

Development of 200,000 ha of irrigated land in the Chad, Sokoto-Rima and Hadejia Jama river basin areas is going ahead, with wheat as a major crop.

An important question for those countries whose wheat consumption is rising rapidly is whether they can afford to grow it. For many countries it is undoubtedly cheaper at present prices to import it. For those that can grow wheat with rainfall, such as Kenya and Tanzania, the case for self-sufficiency is very strong.

According to projections by the British consultants Landell Mills Associates, Zambian wheat farmers growing 50 ha under irrigation would face total annual costs of about pounds 41,000 (738,000/-). At least half the costs would be in foreign exchange. Furthermore, irrigated wheat growing requires a very high level of management which for several years is likely to involve the use of expatriate managers who would also be paid mainly in foreign exchange.

Zambia will obviously want to increase its self-sufficiency over the present 10 percent of consumption. However, complete self-sufficiency is unlikely so long as bread is a subsidised food selling at a lower price than in Britain and other European countries.

Zambia's major new wheat growing programme is the Mpongwe Scheme which started in 1978 as a pilot project supported by the European Community. It is now being expanded and it is hoped that it will produce 10 percent of Zambia's requirements this year.

About 800 ha of soya beans grown during the 1980-81 rainy season are due to be planted with wheat in the winter.

One of the early problems was the unexpected incidence of a large proportion of sterile heads in the 1979 crop. The problem was investigated by Mr K. McPhillips, one of the British researchers at the Mount Makulu Research Station near Lusaka.

His tentative diagnosis was boron deficiency and a series of trials was devised. He also contacted Borax Holdings, in Britain, which conducted a survey to establish what research had been undertaken on boron deficiency in wheat.

The present position is that all wheat farmers are being advised to use boron. The application needs to be made most carefully because of the dangers of excess boron--particularly with soya bean, which is popular as a crop to rotate with wheat.

In Britain barley is mainly used for livestock but in Africa it is used almost exclusively for brewing beer.

Zambia imports 12,000 tonnes of malt annually for its Lusaka and Ndola Breweries. Kenya has made tremendous strides in growing all its own barley and expects soon to become an exporter. Production has been promoted by the brewing companies and there are around 1,400 growers.

British barley varieties have in the past been used successfully in Kenya as they adapt better to a change of climate than wheat. Best known is Proctor which, with its short stiff straw, is suited to the high rainfall, high altitude areas and did extremely well in the 1960s and early 1970s.

As with most varieties it has now been superseded in Britain by a new variety called Ark Royal which gives a 14 percent increase in yield over Proctor.

One of the problems facing wheat and barley growing countries is storage. Nigeria is reported to have storage capacity for only 200,000 tonnes of grain, which is less than one percent of total annual production.

Other countries have the same problem--and, even when the capacity is there, rapid deterioration of stocks can take place in a humid tropical climate if things are not very carefully managed.

The British based firm Cherwell Valley Silos specialises in this field, and has developed a 1,000 tonne sack silo that can be erected in one day.

All the equipment for 12 silos can be loaded in a Boeing 707 aircraft. The equipment includes a specially shaped roof sheet which makes fumigation possible by placing Phostoxin-type tablets on the outside sacks.

As with most crops grown on a large scale, wheat has its own problems of weeds, diseases and insect pests. Dick Vernon, another British researcher at the Mount Makulu Research Station, near Lusaka, is worried about the possibility that the weed wild oats will become established in Zambia. In Britain it is believed to cost pound 20 million (360m/-) a year in lost crop yields and control costs.

This serious weed is already a problem in Zimbabwe, Kenya, Tanzania, Tunisia, Algeria and other African countries. It has been found in some trial plots in Zambia but it is hoped that it can be controlled by hand removal.

Farmers in Zimbabwe can be fined 1,000 dollars (8,000/-) for not controlling it. Mr Vernon has asked wheat farmers to send specimens to him for checking.

Shell chemicals has been active in developing herbicides to control wild oats and sales of these, particularly in North Africa, have expanded greatly in recent years.

One of Shell's latest herbicides, Suxfix B-1 controls wild oats and black grass in both wheat and barley. Many other herbicides unfortunately damage barley and as a result the crop has poor grain development.

In Kenya two of the diseases affecting wheat and barley are septoria and rhynchosporium. Seed dressings can normally prevent them becoming serious but if this fails a spray may be necessary.

CSO: 4700/14

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

FRENCH AID SOUGHT--A number of (non-French-speaking) African nations, under Soviet pressure to allow the installation of military bases on their soil in exchange for economic aid, have asked France to furnish them with financial backing and occasionally with military support. [Text] [Paris LE POINT in French 28 Sep 81 p 107]

CSO: 4719/54

SOUTH AFRICAN CHALLENGE MUST BE MET

London WEST AFRICA in English No 3344, 31 Aug 81 p 1971

[Text]

THE LARGE-SCALE INCURSION by South African forces into Angola reveals a total contempt on the part of the Pretoria regime for world opinion. There is also a disturbing confidence that it can defy the rest of mankind with impunity. There is some historical basis for this confidence. The evils of apartheid have been apparent for well over 30 years and the rest of Africa and much of the world has been fulminating against them, threatening dire consequences. In fact, however, the men of Pretoria have been inconvenienced hardly at all. Perhaps the racists have over-reached themselves in Angola. Perhaps their confidence is (in the terms of ancient Greek drama) a type of *hubris* that will now lead to *nemesis*. But the rest of the world must seriously consider what needs to be done to bring this about; over the years it has failed to translate moral indignation into effective action, and the causes and consequences of that failure must be frankly recognised.

The incursion has been condemned throughout Africa. The Soviet Union, which has a treaty of friendship and co-operation with Angola, also denounced the invasion and demanded an immediate withdrawal. The five Western states that make up the "contact" group that has been seeking a negotiated settlement on Namibia — France, Britain, West Germany, Canada and the US — all summoned the South African ambassadors in their countries to deliver protests and demand an immediate withdrawal. It is significant that the Reagan administration, while "deploring" the military action, also felt it necessary to point out that there had been SWAPO guerrilla raids into Namibia and that there were Cuban troops present in Angola. The British statement had no such qualifications; it said: "We wholly deplore the latest South African action, the consequences of which could be highly dangerous for the stability of Southern Africa." It might be thought that the Reagan administration's ambivalent attitude towards South Africa — reflected in an ill-advised presidential speech about "our former allies" and in a leaked position paper by the US Secretary of State for Africa, Dr. Chester Crocker — played a significant part in causing the South Africans to break up

the Geneva conference on Namibia and to have the effrontery to mount the present incursion. One of the immediate consequences of the present crisis is that the American administration is going to be forced to make its attitude to South Africa clear beyond ambiguity.

There have, of course, been many previous incursions by South African forces into Angolan territory (and into Mozambique). The present one appears to be much more than merely the "hot pursuit" of guerrilla bands. The immediate object seems to have been to destroy missile bases that had been set up over 100 miles within the territory. There has been fighting with Angolan troops but not, according to first reports, with Cuban troops. Angola has asked that an emergency session of the United Nations Security Council be held.

The dangers to the stability of the region to which the British statement referred come mainly from the possibility of Cuban troops being involved. In addition, President Shagari is reported to have told President Dos Santos when the Angolan President visited Lagos recently that Nigeria would be willing to send troops if asked. The conflict could be widened even further. It is difficult to say whether the South African authorities considered these dangers and decided to go ahead in spite of them, or whether a military decision was taken without due regard to the political repercussions. In any event the possibility of having a border raid grow into an international conflict is there.

This increase in tension comes at a time when the pretensions of the South African regime towards more tolerance and liberalism have been stripped away by the brutal deportation of men, women and children from a squatters camp at Nyanga, near Cape Town, to the wilderness of the "homeland" of the Transkei. The government showed in this operation that it regards the Africans as less than people; official racial prejudice is unveiled to give the lie to all the cosmetic "reforms" concerning mixed sport and shared park benches. The deliberate breaking up of families also exposes yet again as false the idea that it is Christianity that the regime is defending.

The urgent question posed is: can the world do anything about all this? It is generally recognised that the liberation of South Africa can in the end only be done by black South Africans, whose resistance within the country is becoming increasingly effective and is being increasingly ruthlessly repressed. But the world should be able to help. Africa should be in a position to respond adequately to the blatant invasion of an African territory. The Security Council should be able to do something other than pass another sanctions motion that will be ineffective.

The South African regime has stood up defiant and challenged the world. It would be a serious defeat for tolerance and human dignity if that challenge were allowed to remain unanswered.

SOUTH AFRICA'S 'COMMUNIST GHOST' PROPAGANDA DERIDED

Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 10 Sep 81 p 12

[Excerpts] In 1848, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels wrote, in a text that would become compulsory reading for the revolutionaries in the entire world, that Europe was being threatened by a "specter": communism!

Today, more than 130 years after the publication of the Communist Manifesto, another "specter" is troubling the dreams of Ronald Reagan's ultra-bellicose administration and of its racist proteges installed in South Africa and Namibia: the Soviets!

To ward off communism, the reactionary powers had formed a "Holy Alliance" in the middle of the last century, in a common fight against the revolutionary fires that were being lit all over Europe at that time.

Today, the "Holy Alliance" formed many years ago is known as NATO. Its bellicose promoters would like to extend the letters NA (North Atlantic) to SA (South Atlantic). They wish to extend their militaristic, destabilizing and aggressive organization to the ocean that bathes the shores of so many countries of free Africa (including Angola).

Angola gave the alert against this intention at the appropriate time. Recently, at the beginning of the ongoing military maneuvers led by the United States, Angola denounced the fact that they represented an encouragement for the aggressivity of the South African racist regime against the independent nations of Southern Africa, with Angola first and foremost.

Facts are obvious, for every one to see. Three weeks after the start of these maneuvers, South Africa initiated the most important military adventure against Angola since the failed attempt 6 years ago.

Tens of thousands of regular soldiers of the racist army, seconded by Angolan mercenaries and puppets, assisted by powerful land resources and sophisticated air support, poured thousands of tons of bombs on schools, hospitals, houses and economic centers.

At the same time, in savage operations, the racists practiced a "scorched-earth" policy the consequences of which still cannot be estimated.

The condemnation of this barbarous retrogression to the time of fascism and Nazism was practically universal. Even some of the Western powers objectively allied with Pretoria added their voices to the chorus of protest.

Harassed--in spite of the aggressive U.S. protection--South Africa then launched a new propaganda offensive, waving once again the "spectors" of the socialist community already used in the preparatory phase of the aggression.

As every one still remembers, there was a "denunciation" of the installation of ultra-sophisticated missiles and radar by the "Soviets and East Germans." Subsequently, in a farce mounted after the invasion, Western "newsmen" were able to "discover" in Ondjiva...bottles of Soviet vodka!). And then came the thousands of pamphlets of Soviet propaganda.

The childishness of this ridiculous propaganda did not inhibit its racist promoters in South Africa. It is thus not surprising that immediately following the pamphlets, mysterious Soviet "plans" to destabilize the entire region of Southern Africa came to light.

First the bottles, then the pamphlets followed by the plans: honest-to-God people were the only ones left for South Africa to shout in triumph. So the infra-red eyes of the racists easily "discovered" a number of dead military advisers, while some others were reputedly made prisoner.

Sly manipulators of a press they muzzle with money and pressures of various kinds, the racists have still not produced the alleged prisoners, as they would surely have done had they truly been in possession of this veritable "gold mine" for their propaganda, slyly awaiting the reaction of both the Soviets and the Angolans.

Since this reaction did not fit their plans, and since the entire world is now--naturally--awaiting the sensational revelation, the racists are meanwhile exhausting their torrent of vituperations exhumed from the worst period of the "cold war," passing them out as hot news.

What is the most serious in the midst of all this buffoonery is that, by the simple fact of the racists having released a few bottles, pamphlets and "specters" during their "police operation" in Angola, international public opinion is now side-tracked from the core of the question--the occupation of southern Angola by the racist South African army!--so as to guarantee the intrigues of a "ghost" story that does not even possess the literary quality to which some of the masters in this field have accustomed us. In sum, a mediocre story indeed....

CSO: 4728/149

S. AFRICA'S 'SCARECROWS,' U.S. COMPLICITY DENOUNCED

Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 15 Sep 81 p 1

[Editorial: "A Decolonization Problem"]

[Text] The Southern African states constituting the "front line" against the racist South Africa regime decided, at a meeting held in Nigeria, to appeal to all the countries member of the OAU to urgently provide support--and particularly military assistance--to the People's Republic of Angola "in the context of its efforts to expel the racist invaders and face future aggressions, in defense of its sovereignty and of Africa's integrity."

This clear and concrete language is not coincidental. The Front Line states know better than any other country of the continent what the aggressive and criminal character of apartheid means. They know that what is at stake at this time in Southern Africa is not a problem concerning merely Angola and Namibia, or even those who, by virtue of their geographical position, feel the racist threat more directly.

What is now taking place in our southern region is one of the decisive aspects of the struggle opposing Africa and the peace-loving world to South African racism and aggressivity and to imperialism in general, of which Pretoria is but a simple policeman in this part of the continent. What is really at stake is "Africa's integrity."

Let the South Africans wave their "cold war" scarecrows, let Reagan and the U.S. administration attempt to situate the problem of Namibian independence within the wider context of their desperate opposition to the worldwide progress of the socialist community, accusing the Soviets of promoting subversion in Southern Africa. Socialism is a natural attribute of humanity. It is the natural requirement for all the peoples of the world who wish to achieve a future of freedom, peace and social progress.

For this reason, the People's Republic of Angola cannot be indifferent to the violation of its borders and territorial integrity by the troops of a regime proscribed by the community of nations. For this reason, the Angolan people and its vanguard party--the MPLA-Labor Party--are providing constant and unconditional support to the liberation struggle of the Namibian people led by SWAPO.

In doing this, Angola is not simply exercising its options and principles. It is also and above all implementing the UN and OAU resolutions to support the liberation struggle of a movement internationally recognized as the sole legitimate representative of the Namibian people, which is defending its fundamental and inalienable right to self-determination and independence.

It is not, then, a power like the United States (which, despite its arrogance and irresponsibility continues to sit at the UN) that can transform, through simple linguistic juggling, an organization conducting a just fight into a band of "criminals" and "terrorists." Equally, the racists have no kind of moral authority to decide whether these alleged "terrorists" must be pursued "wherever they happen to be..."

Additionally, the attempt made by Reagan and his "hawks" from the very first to tie the independence of Namibia to the presence of Cuban internationalists on the sovereign soil of the People's Republic of Angola cannot be justified.

South Africa should have ended its illegal occupation of Namibia a long time ago, through the will of the United Nations. This UN decision antedates Angola's independence and thus cannot in any way be associated to the presence of any foreign troops invited by the legitimate government born after independence precisely to help fight an invasion by the racist South Africans in the pay of U.S. imperialism. The mechanisms for the retreat of racist troops from Namibia and for holding free elections under UN control have already been defined and accepted by all the members of the "contact group," for the solution of the Namibian problem.

In its naked and shameless support of the racists, the Reagan administration is attempting to hide the most essential part of the problem, isolating itself from its very own Western allies, in a series of inconsistent and hopeless maneuvers. The problem of the independence of Namibia is clear. As Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos affirmed to national and foreign newsmen: "The Namibian problem is essentially an African problem. The question of Namibia must be perceived as part of the decolonization of the African continent. Namibia is one of the last bastions of colonialism. South Africa's illegal occupation of this territory, which goes against UN and OAU decisions, is, in sum, a colonization of the Namibian people."

The clarity of Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos' words is also not coincidental....

CSO: 4728/149

'ANGOP' REPORTS VISIT TO NAMIBIAN REFUGEE CAMPS

LD281206 Luanda ANGOP in Portuguese 1000 GMT 28 Sep 81

[Text] Luanda, 27 Sep (ANGOP)--This weekend a group of Portuguese and U.S. journalists visited two Namibian refugee camps in the Angolan provinces of Kwanza-Norte and Kwanza-Sul, where they acquainted themselves with the refugees' difficult existence.

The two camps house about 40,000 refugees, mostly women and children, many survivors of the barbarous actions of racist South Africa's troops who are illegally occupying Namibian territory.

Doctors Albertine Amathila and Namuhia Lumumba--directors of the Kwanza-Sul and Kwanza-Noste camps respectively--emphasized to the visiting Portuguese and U.S. journalists that, contrary to the claims of Western propaganda, the camps are not SWAPO military bases--the pretext used by the South African racists to justify their acts of aggression against the People's Republic of Angola.

The doctors explained that the establishment of the two camps in the region was due to the tragic events in Cassinga, southern Angola, in 1978, when hundreds of Namibian refugees--women, old people and children--were massacred. Young Namibian pioneers chanted to the visiting journalists at the Kwanza-Sul camp: "We shall never forget Cassinga."

The camps are organized into various sections where the refugees study and engage in productive activity. With the help of international humanitarian and other organizations, courses in typing and dressmaking have been set up, as well as medical posts.

In the Kwanza-Sul camp alone there are over 10,000 children attending classes. They are, however, beset by many material difficulties. The general situation in the camp is further worsened by the drought affecting the region, with only one tanker of water delivered each day for the thousands of refugees.

Namuhia Lumumba, the camp's political commissar, appealed for international aid and, at the same time, stressed the Namibian people's determination to continue their national liberation struggle.

Dr Albertine Amathila, member of the SWAPO Central Committee, emphasized the high degree of understanding shown by the Angolan authorities to the Namibian refugees.

ANGOLA

BRIEFS

CUBAN OFFICIAL--A delegation from the Cuban Ministry of Construction headed by Henrique Miguel Hernandez, director general for construction abroad arrived yesterday in Luanda for a working visit that will last 1 week. The Cuban delegation will hold talks with Angolan officials of this sector and will also review the progress of the work performed by the "Cuban Construction Company" and the mixed Angolan-Cuban company TECHICOGIRON. According to Henrique Miguel, the Cuban delegation will also have the opportunity to inspect the work performed in the paving of the port of Luanda and in the water distribution centers of Mulemba and Palanca. The Cuban director general also disclosed that the Cuban company will start building 2,000 residences in the interior of Angola. [Text] [Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 10 Sep 81 p 2]

OFFICIAL TO LONDON--Angolan Minister of Health Mendes de Carvalho is now in Britain. His visit is aimed at reinforcing intergovernmental ties and is also related to the support for the victims of South African aggression. He was received on Wednesday by his British counterpart, Gerard Vaughan. [Excerpt] [Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 11 Sep 81 p 2]

NEW INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENTS--The fourth enlarged consultative council of the Ministry of Industry reached a number of conclusions, among which is the inclusion of some new investments in the 1982 projected industrial plan. These are: expansion of the bread and beer industries; the study and project of wheat mill units and margarine manufacturing; the expansion of the textile sector, as well as its modernization, and professional training in this field; the installation of bottled gas container, beer barrel and drum factories; the expansion and reorganization of the metallurgic products field and the installation of new furniture and footwear units. [Excerpt] [Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 12 Sep 81 p 1]

LABOR PROTOCOL WITH GDR--A protocol envisaging the exchange of labor experts and mutual consultation on the International Labor Organization between Angola and the GDR was signed in Berlin at the end of a visit to that country by Angolan Minister of Labor Bras da Silva. The Angolan minister's 10-day visit to the GDR was aimed at reinforcing ties of cooperation in the labor field and at an exchange of documentation and experiences. During the visit, the labor ministers of the two countries analyzed conditions for a possible agreement on the training of several hundred Angolan workers on a temporary labor and technical expertise basis. The GDR made available to Angola a number of study grants for the training of labor cadre in that country. [Excerpt] [Luanda JORNAL DE ANGOLA in Portuguese 12 Sep 81 p 2]

BOTSWANA

BRIEFS

DRILLING FOR COAL--Gaborone--A subsidiary of the French National Coal Board, the Chardonage de France International, will start preparatory drilling in three weeks on a coal seam near Mmamabula in central Botswana. If tests prove positive, a fully fledged mine will be established. [Text] [Johannesburg THE STAR in English 14 Sep 81 p 9]

CSO: 4700/24

PRESIDENT AHIDJO INTERVIEWED ON AFRICAN ISSUES

PM231031 Paris LE MONDE in French 18 Sep 81 p 5

[Interview with Cameroon President Ahmadou Ahidjo by Philippe Decraene in Yaounde: "French Government's Initial Actions Will Not Affect Relations Between Our Two Countries"--date not given]

[Text] [Answer] The new government's statements, approaches and initial actions which we have observed so far as not likely to affect relations between our two countries. These relations are based essentially on interstate relations and on cultural and emotional affinities stemming from a long common history. Moreover, these relations are based on mutual economic interests and on cooperation which respects each country's national identity, independence and sovereignty.

[Question] What do you think of Franco-Cameroon cooperation?

[Answer] Franco-Cameroon cooperation corresponds to our options. There does not seem to be any use in changing it. However, in some cases it could perhaps be adapted and improved. I am thinking, for instance, of our foreign trade balance in which there is a major deficit to our detriment. I am also thinking of participation by French investors in increased promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises and of more finance for our big development projects.

[Question] How can this cooperation be made more effective?

[Answer] If the measures which I have just mentioned were implemented successfully, they would be found to make a further contribution to this effectiveness.

[Question] Are Cameroon's positions on the major African political questions (Chad, West Sahara, Namibia, Horn of Africa), generally speaking close to those upheld by France?

[Answer] Although France's and Cameroon's positions on the questions you mentioned are determined in complete independence and sovereignty, some areas of agreement nonetheless emerge on some of these problems. In this connection I could mention the similarity of our stances on rapid independence for Namibia, in keeping with the UN plan.... Moreover, in addition to the questions which you mention, there are others which reveal broader agreement: respect for national independence and sovereignty, and self-centered endogenous development in particular.

[Question] Are you taking part personally in the forthcoming Franco-African summit in Paris?

[Answer] I have never taken part in any of the Franco-African summits held so far. I intend to abide by an attitude which is based on principle. When the former French Cameroon and the former British Cameroon were reunified in 1961, I solemnly pledged that my country would not be part of any French-speaking or English-speaking political entity. I am keeping my word.

[Question] What is the position on the dispute between Cameroon and Nigeria?

[Answer] This dispute, caused by recent border incidents, is being settled peacefully. The solution has even been agreed in principle. After expressing the government's condolences to the victims' families and promising the necessary compensation, I agreed to visit Nigeria, at President Shehu Shagari's invitation, to consecrate the reconciliation between our two countries and to seal our good-neighborly relations and cooperation.

[Question] Given the continuation of the conflict and the failure of all the efforts made by the OAU, if the deadlock persists, the United Nations, which has the necessary manpower and enough financial resources, must take the affair in hand and force the warring factions to sit down at the same table.... Nonetheless I note that the prevailing de facto situation is tending to produce a stabilization which, it is to be hoped, will consolidate the paths of pacification and rebuilding....

[Question] What is the state of regional cooperation in Central Africa?

[Answer] In my view it is doing well. The Customs Union of Central African States [UDEAC] is developing and diversifying while consolidating its activities. This cooperation has great potential since it stems from the requirements of geography, history and living sociocultural realities. This potential also rests in our respective peoples' aspirations to rapid and harmonious development.

[Question] Does the Soviet Union's African policy strike you as disturbing?

[Answer] The policy pursued by all the superpowers and that of the hegemonist blocs cannot be reassuring to anybody. This is because the superpowers, with their ambitions, threaten the existence, independence, security and stability of other states. In this connection their opposing ideologies and interests aimed at domination and expansionism are worthy of condemnation and must be combatted.

[Question] Do you think that the American policy in Africa is unrealistic?

[Answer] The United States is present in Africa and, like others, is pursuing a great-power policy likely to evolve according to the options of the party and president in government. It doesn't really matter whether this policy is unrealistic or not. It is up to the Americans themselves to judge. In my view the important thing is that, through a policy of peaceful coexistence by the

superpowers and a small amount of cooperation between them, the African countries should enjoy peace and stability and hence be able to guarantee their development with the aid of all.

[Question] There is a great deal of talk about the threat which militant Islam allegedly poses to the African continent's stability. What do you think of this?

[Answer] Cameroon condemns all religious proselytism or messianism used for political ends, especially with a view to destabilizing states. Cameroon is a secular state which respects freedom of conscience and is tolerant of religions provided they are not used as arms in political battle, that they respect the state's rights and laws, as well as public order and security. Any destabilization should be used for destablization purposes.

CSO: 4719/37

ATTITUDE OF POPULATION TOWARD FRENCH TROOPS NOTED

Paris AFRICA AFP in English No 2827 11 Sep 81 pp 1, 2

[Article by Jean-Eudes Barbier: "French Troops a Source of Aid"]

[Text]

BOUAR, Centrafrica, September 9 - The presence of French forces in Africa is viewed by some as an expression of neo-colonialism, by others as a necessary counterbalance to forces of a different ideological hue. But for some villagers they can be simply an extra source of aid.

This seems to be the case in Bouar, Centrafrica's second city, 450 kms (280 miles) north-west of the capital, Bangui. Here French troops are almost part of the scenery.

French soldiers are not a new sight in Bouar. It was a base in colonial days from 1947 to 1965, and was reactivated in May 1980 when the first units were withdrawn from Ndjamena, in neighbouring Chad, during that country's civil war.

Today it holds a garrison of 750 regular soldiers, equipped with 160 vehicles, who are rotated every four months with other French-based units.

The base is more of a small town than a traditional camp. It sprawls over a large area next to a Centrafrican Army base, with no perimeter fence and only a few small zones off-limits to the local inhabitants, who stroll along the shady camp paths.

Regular patrols

Bouar sprang back to life 16 months ago as the French soldiers moved back into the old camp. Small shops have sprung up, and jobs are available for some of the local population in the kitchens, laundry and compounds on the base.

But the soldiers have made additional friends through their regular long-distance patrols through the west of the country, a region of 150,000 square kilometres (80,000 square miles) inhabited by only 800,000 people.

Moving in small groups, and with clearance from the local authorities, they camp at will close to villages built in the grassland or on the edge of the forest.

Observation post

Everywhere they go they get the same welcome : traditional warmth mixed with relief at the arrival of medical assistance. For since their return to Bouar the troops have performed medical checks on 11,000 people in 153 villages, and given 7,000 vaccinations. On each of the two-week patrols the camp's three doctors and two nurses reckon to distribute up to 400 kilogrammes (900 pounds) of medicine.

The troops have also repaired 16 bridges and knocked up various facilities such as dispensaries, sports grounds and markets.

But the French operation here is not all give without take. For Bouar is an excellent observation post, a crossroads town on the routes to the frontiers with Cameroun and Chad, and the meeting point of several of the country's different ethnic groups and religions.

The soldiers have taken advantage of their stay here to locate all French nationals living in the region who might need help in time of trouble. And beyond continuing their training in a tropical environment they have also increased their knowledge of the local terrain.

Bouar is a place where the Moslems of the north meet the southern Animists and Christians, and the French presence is seen by some as a stabilising factor. One officer commented : "If we pull out there is a danger that tribal fights will resume. The region is a mosaic of different ethnic groups".

But not everyone here sees the French as friends. Last July half a dozen plastic charges were found in Bouar, and a French officer told me : "There is no doubt that they were going to be used against us". (A.F.P.)

BRIEFS

AUSTERE 1982 BUDGET PLANNED--Libreville, 27 Sep (AFP)--During a press conference held in Libreville on Saturday, President Omar Bongo stressed that the 1982 budget will be in line with the policy of austerity which has been adopted up to date. For the Gabonese president the maintenance of a disciplined budget in order to limit the increase in the state's current expenditures and to fight waste in all fields is absolutely necessary if one wants to mobilize enough resources to finance the country's development. According to him, it is also necessary to diversify the economy by giving preference to productive investments and to ensure the social well-being of Gabonese nationals. That is why, in 1982, the budget will be a near repetition of that of 1981, while on the other hand, the priority given to productive investments and to social policy will be stepped up; these are the two fundamental principles on which Gabon's 1982 budget will be drawn up, Mr Bongo added. Finally, Mr Bongo denounced those who count on external assistance to form political parties because they think their time has come. He also asserted that he would never allow that Gabon's political stability and the confidence it has been enjoying to be endangered. [Text] [AB271235 Paris AFP in French 0728 GMT 27 Sep 81]

DELIVERY OF HERCULES AIRCRAFT--The Hercules L 100-30 transport aircraft ordered by the Gabonese Government to Lockheed will be delivered this month. Representing a transaction of over 15 million dollars, the contract also includes spare parts, a measure of assistance and flight crew training for 4 weeks. This L 100-30 aircraft is equipped to transport cargo or 91 passengers, or both at the same time. The change from cargo to passengers can be effected within one hour. [Text] [Paris AFRIQUE DEFENSE in French No 42 Sep 81 p 18]

MYSTERE FROM GISCARD--President Bongo is to take delivery of the Mystere 50 aircraft that was promised him by former President Giscard of France shortly before the latter's demise in May. President Mitterrand is reported to have hesitated in honouring the promised plane, but finally agreed. He made it clear, however, that there would be no more presents of this sort from his administration at the Elysee. [Text] [London WEST AFRICA in English No 3344, 31 Aug 81 p 2022]

CSO: 4700/28

BRIEFS

PRC DONATION--The People's Republic of China, PRC, has donated the sum of D120,897.12 towards the Gambia's Relief Programme. The presentation was made by Mr Li Jie, the Chinese charge d'Affaire in The Gambia, at the President's Office on Thursday. Speaking during the occasion, Mr Jie said that the Chinese people were glad to learn that the rebellion has been crushed. "Although the donation is small," he said, "it shows the feeling the Chinese people have for the Gambians. We are convinced that you will soon overcome the difficulties." He expressed the wish for the strengthening of the relations between his country and The Gambia in the future. In reply President Sir Dawda Jawara expressed happiness at what he called 'a generous donation' and said the People's Republic of China has always stood by us in our development efforts and that he was not surprised that they have rallied around us once more. He asked Mr Jie to convey his "gratitude to the Prime Minister and the leadership of Gambia for this fraternal gesture."

[Text] [Banjul THE GAMBIA NEWS BULLETIN in English 7 Sep 81 pp 1, 4]

CSO: 4700/18

REPORT ON 25 SEPTEMBER LIMANN NEWS CONFERENCE

AE260954 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 26 Sep 81

[Text] President Limann has no plan to use force to curtail the rising prices of goods in the country. It rather favors voluntary price control. Speaking at a news conference in Accra yesterday in connection with the second anniversary of the return to constitutional rule, Dr Limann pointed out that there is no proper machinery in the country to control prices. He however, called on Ghanaians to help educate the public on price control.

On the short term agricultural program, the president asserted that it has been a big success. There is much (?food) in the country now than before. On the investment code, Dr Limann said many foreign investors have been making inquiries about investment prospects even before the enactment of the code. But because of the process involved in consultancy and feasibility studies, it may take a bit longer to see results in such areas as the mining industry. He repeated his appeal to Ghanaians to make foreign investors feel that they are welcome in the country. Dr. Limann cited the case of a delegation from the Michelin Tire Company of France which has returned home a few months after its visit, because they were not warmly received. He rejected the accusation that his government is paying more attention to more long-term projects rather than short-term ones. He intimated that the government is still negotiating with the IMF for acceptable terms for assistance to Ghana.

Asked about the country's hope for crude oil, the president said a report by Philips Petroleum on the analysis of the rate of flow in the well has not been encouraging due to some blocking of the rate of flow. He said, however, that the company is hopeful and will sink more wells to find the rate of flow. The president announced that he will not attend the forthcoming commonwealth leaders conference in Melbourne, Australia. Instead, Ghana will be represented by a 6-member delegation to be led by the minister of foreign affairs, Dr Chinebuah. He said his going to Melbourne will not be practicable. He said the Bank of Ghana, for example, is seriously handicapped; exports are not moving and there are so many agreements which have been signed and should have gone into operation by now--Dr Limann said he has to stay at home and tackle these problems.

The president also stressed that Ghana will not attend the next OAU summit in Libya unless Libya normalizes relations with all countries that have broken up diplomatic relations with her or have expelled her diplomats. Dr Limann explained that Ghana's

concern is to maintain the unity of the OAU which she helped to build. OAU summits, he said, should be held at places where member countries can attend and be hosted by countries which do not undermine the charter of the organization.

The president pointed out that politics cannot be separated from sports. For this reason, if the OAU deems it necessary to rule that member states should not attend the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, Ghana will comply. Dr Limann said Ghana has always supported the African liberation struggle and will fight along with other African states to liberate those countries still struggling for independence.

He said, although the decision to break up relations with Israel was an OAU decision, Egypt, which was then the enemy, is now at peace with Israel and Ghana is examining that decision. The president declined to name the countries where he alleged some Ghanaian nationals are being trained for subversive activities in the country. He explained that for security reasons, he will not do so. However, it might be possible to name them at the appropriate time.

CSO: 4700/21

ALL-PEOPLE'S PARTY LEADERSHIP ELECTED

AB270823 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 26 Sep 81

[Text] Mr Victor Owusu was today elected unopposed as leader of the All-People's Party [APP]. His election took place at the great hall of the University of Ghana, Legon. The post of deputy leader was won by Alhaji Mahama Iddrisu of the United National Congress, with 81 votes as against 48 by Alhaji Ibrahim Mahama of the Social Democratic Front [SDF].

Dr John Bilson of the Third Force Party won unopposed the chairmanship of the party. His two deputies are J. H. Mensah and Nii Armaah Armateifio. Other officers elected were Dr Obed Assamoah, general secretary with Obeng Manu as his deputy. Mr Kwasi Brew was also elected unopposed as the treasurer. The post of deputy treasurer was suspended after two SDF nominees had stepped down on the pretext that they were not consulted. Earlier, the SDF had refused to put up a candidate for the post of vice chairman.

In his acceptance speech, Victor Owusu said the All-People's Party has opened its arms to all Ghanaians in reconciliation and genuine friendship in tackling the country's problems. He said, after 2 years of the People's National Party administration every Ghanaian is convinced that it is incapable of solving the nation's problems. Victor Owusu recounted the numerous problems that face Ghana and said the APP, when voted into power, will bring this to an end.

On ideology, Victor Owusu said the APP does not want Ghana to be tied to the apron-strings of either of the superpowers. He said the party will pursue social and liberal democracy where private property and free enterprise will be allowed. He called on the trade union congress leadership not to allow itself to be misled into who is a socialist, but rather seek the welfare of the workers. If the APP is voted into power, Victor Owusu said, programs would be initiated to let workers own houses. An educational insurance scheme would be introduced to make it easier for workers to look after their children to the university level. All fee-free and compulsory elementary education would be introduced.

An APP government will also bring down the cost of living and find realistic solutions to the country's problems so that resources are judiciously utilized. He promised social security for farmers and fishermen.

CSO: 4700/21

OWUSU'S LONDON SPEECH PROVIDES INSIGHT INTO PFP POLICIES

London WEST AFRICA in English No 3344, 31 Aug 81 pp 1976-1979

[Text] THE INVITATION from Krona, a Swiss public relations agency, promised that "Mr. Victor Owusu, leader of the Ghanaian opposition Popular Front Party and prospective President, will explain his credo and the economic sense for the industrialised Western nations to support his constitutional, democratic philosophy". At the London Press Centre, the journalists certainly, and at least some of the party members, friends, wives and girlfriends were able to have a continental breakfast while browsing through a text of the speech to be delivered by Mr. Owusu, and a glossy, 11-page brochure entitled: *Ghana Needs Victor*. Five thousand copies were printed by a Swiss public relations firm.

It was this publication that set the tone of the whole affair. On the first inside page was an introduction purported to come from an unknown "Committee of Ghanaians Abroad" who said, among other things: "So far, although there is some sympathy among the international community for Ghana, there appears to be no confidence in the present administration. We believe that there is in Ghana a more competent alternative team to manage the economy and generate the necessary international confidence in the country. Mr. Victor Owusu, in our view, has the necessary qualities, experience and influence to head such a team, and we seriously recommend him to all our countrymen." Like a panel of experts recommending a soap powder, or better still, a brand of medicine, here were unnamed and unnumbered "Ghanaians living abroad in various parts of Europe and America" recommending the man whose photograph on the facing page was very badly chosen: black and

white, and full of shadows, making the eyes in particular invisible.

The rest of the glossy booklet was naturally devoted to painting as beautiful a picture of Mr. Owusu as possible, under headings such as "Victor the man", "Victor in Parliament and Government", "Victor International", and "What Victor can do for Ghana", all accompanied with suitable photographs from his albums. There was, no doubt, a conscious play on the idea of a victorious Victor, for, after all, this was straightforward electioneering propaganda. For example, under "Victor the man" was the concluding sentence that: "Victor's greatest testimonial from the people [of Ghana, presumably, and not of Krona Public Relations A.G.] is best summed up in words which are now persistently uttered all over the country — 'If only Victor were there!'" At the end of his press conference, Mr. Owusu said there was a story going around in Ghana, which he did not believe at all but would tell us anyway, that PNP people were blaming him for Ghana's economic problems because, having lost the presidential elections, he was in collusion with foreign investors and suppliers to prevent goods reaching Ghana. Q.E.D.

Main causes

In his speech, Mr. Owusu said the lack of political continuity and stability, and bad economic management of the economy were the main causes of Ghana's decline from the "land of hope and promise" it was in 1957. Experience had clearly demonstrated that military regimes were

not good for Ghana, and coups would not be encouraged if all citizens committed themselves fully to democratic constitutional rule. The politicians, particularly those running the government, must therefore make a special effort to ensure the success of civilian rule as a norm.

On how to change Ghana's bad image, especially among the foreign press, Mr. Owusu advocated the development among the politicians of new attitudes, particularly when Ghana had known the "blight of the authoritarian one-party system" for many years. "The tendency to corner all benefits in all areas, to be shared among the supporters of the ruling party must have no place in the new politics of Ghana". He went on to say that "so far, the present administration has not given enough indication that it is committed to the politics of compromise and understanding. For example, in the distribution of commodities there is blatant discrimination in favour of members and functionaries of the ruling party which is almost a national scandal, and a serious embarrassment, as the recent investigations into flour distribution have revealed". He later mentioned tractors, textiles and cement, as other PNP kalabule commodities.

Teething troubles

He conceded that "so far, democratic government is being practised in Ghana and in spite of what may be called teething troubles everybody is trying to make the Constitution work. I believe that the vigilance of the opposition parties has contributed a great deal to ensuring that the government and the ruling party keep within the bounds of the Constitution". He also hoped that a change would come in the present government's attitude. He felt one of the government's difficulties was its apparent belief that there was something disgraceful about quiet consultation or taking active steps to seek co-operation on acceptable terms: "It seems to equate co-operation with unquestioning acquiescence... I hope this attitude will change".

Mr. Owusu said there were four economic matters of fundamental importance which held the key to economic recovery — management of the economy, agricul-

ture, government expenditure, and the currency. He thought the present government was incapable of the imaginative and bold initiatives required.

On economic management, he advocated policy co-ordination, disciplined government finances, and ruthless elimination of waste and inefficiency. "Modern science and technology", in company with a statistical base and competent economic managers (he expressed concern that "one cannot find one competent economist of any repute in the whole of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning"), would be required; the State sector would have to be trimmed, with "private initiative" getting a cut, and other parts going public with worker share participation. But above all, he said, there must be proper planning and monitoring.

On agriculture, Mr. Owusu noted that more tractors were being imported while the peasant sector was neglected; recognising the "considerable prospects" of large-scale commercial, but also its capital-intensive nature and propensity to consume imported inputs, he recommended a "judicious balance" between the needs of the modern and peasant sectors of the agricultural economy. Mr. Owusu said the "perverse producer price policy" in the cocoa sector should take pride of place in explaining its decline into the "incredible" position of being a deficit sector. The crucial factor, he said, was the longstanding, contemptuous and shortsighted treatment of the cocoa farmer by Ghanaian governments which had predictably resulted as a disincentive. His plan for a revival recommended "dynamic producer price policy... to maintain a competitive position in relation to other agricultural crops", that is a price set, not in relations to the world price at the present exchange rate, but to competing crops with adjustments for production costs and incentives.

Rising debt

On government finances, he said last year's budget deficit was estimated at C1,600m. but ended up as C4,700m. The estimated deficit for 1981-82 was C4,000m. but "informed opinion" was expecting nearly C7,000m., of which 80 per cent

would be financed almost entirely by the Bank of Ghana. His main concern was that the new budget put outstanding domestic debt by May 1981 at C11,500m. an increase of 51 per cent over the previous year. For this new year, interest payments on this debt was estimated at C2,092.6m. compared to tax revenue of C5,592.7m. He said: "... nearly 40 per cent of revenues from ordinary sources are committed to debt servicing ... At this rate, debt-servicing requirements will soon catch up with government revenues and expose the bankruptcy of the government ...". The only way to save the situation, he said, was a "ruthless exercise to cut out waste and inefficiency".

Mr. Owusu did not recommend "an ordinary devaluation" but a package to raise productivity in agriculture and industry, curb inflation and government deficits, redistribute income, take progressive steps to liberalise the economy, and urgently work on "eventual convertibility". He said his package would of course "need to be backed by massive assistance in the form of balance of payments support". He concluded his speech with the regret that the present government had "not been able to initiate any moves and measures likely to inspire either the Ghanaians themselves or interested foreigners with hopes and confidence ...".

Hopeful candidate

Mr. Owusu was flanked by Mr. J. B. da Rocha, general secretary of the PFP, and Mr. Kofi A. Boateng, deputy general secretary. He confidently disposed of a question about who he was speaking for by spelling out clearly that he was speaking as the PFP presidential candidate. The question was not well put in that it did not ask why he was speaking in this way when the election of a leader of the now-merged five opposition parties would not take place until late this September.

There were repeated questions for him to explain what the difference was between the proposals he was making, and those of the PNP Government. He said the basic difference was the belief in private enterprise. There would be no "half-baked socialist principles". Equitable distribution would come through the taxation machinery while private capital and free enterprise would ensure the production of wealth. The PNP, he said, was a socialist party taking off continuing from where Kwame Nkrumah left off. He said when it

saw it would be unable to deliver the goods, it then began to try and change its image and express belief in private enterprise. Even though the PNP had bent over backwards to make the Investment Code attractive to foreign investors, they were still nervous because of the Nkrumah heritage. He, on the contrary, was known right from the Busia days for his "free enterprise-all-the-way" stance.

One journalist tried to ruffle Mr. Owusu by asking whether it was true that he had neither declared the real extent of his shareholding in Gemini Airlines (which, also allegedly did not remit foreign exchange to Ghana), nor paid the correct amount of income tax in Ghana. Mr. Owusu said he owned 12,000 shares, that Gemini was not making the expected profits, that it remitted £5,000 per month to Ghana, and that he paid all his income tax. When asked how he would tackle the exodus of Ghanaians, he said the causes must be found. These, he claimed, were a general dislike for the philosophy of the PNP, and rampant kalabule, mass unemployment and low wages and salaries.

Lessons learned

One disappointed PFP supporter asked what lessons had been learned from the 1979 election campaign problem of not getting to the grass roots. Mr. Owusu admitted that the party had erred by concentrating on large public rallies instead of the smaller and private "disinformation" sessions he said had been practised by the PNP. However, out of 1.8m. voters, only 600,000 voted PNP, while 1.2m. voted for the other parties. If there had been proportional representation, "we would have won" but for splits among the opposition parties. As for what the party would do next time around, he said it would not do to reveal one's hand, but his effective message was that if the PNP practised dirty tricks, the PFP would do the same.

There did not appear to be any foreign investors there, and even party members did not appear thick on the ground. Any possibility of fireworks diminished during the questions from the floor session, and was dispelled completely by the buffet lunch and drinks provided afterwards. It appeared that Mr. Owusu would proceed to Frankfurt and to New York to address other branches of this new "Committee of Ghanaians Abroad".

WARNING AGAINST FOREIGN GOLD-MINING MONOPOLIES ISSUED

London WEST AFRICA in English No 3344, 31 Aug 81 pp 2017-2018

[Text]

Dr. J. W. S. de Graft-Johnson, the Vice-President, has said that gold pilfering in the mines is seriously undermining Ghana's foreign exchange earnings. He said many people "from the top to the bottom" were involved in such theft, and that the government was taking steps to punish those concerned. In reference to a recent case of theft at Tarkwa, the Vice-President said "it is amazing to hear that a whole day's gold production is missing". In separate speeches at Prestea and Tarkwa, the Vice-President said that gold production had recently been falling at the State Gold Mining Corporation (SGMC) due to rampant stealing, which was not happening at Ashanti Goldfields. He denied that the government intended to sell SGMC to foreigners, and said it was, rather, encouraging foreign participation.

Mr. Frank K. Minlah, secretary of the local branch of the Mine Workers Union, asked the government to act swiftly to stop illegal gold prospecting (described as *galamsey*, said to be a corruption of "gather them and sell"). He said the practice was seriously affecting gold production at SGMC because it was so lucrative that "most workers have left the industry for this field". The Senior Staff Association of SGMC warned the government against the "monopolistic tendencies" of foreign firms in the gold-mining industry. Presenting a resolution to Dr. de Graft-Johnson, the association said such monopolistic traits should not be entertained as experience had shown that some of the ex-patriate personnel experts brought in under foreign aid schemes had sometimes proved inefficient.

CSO: 4700/28

BRIEFS

LAUNCHING OF NEW GHANA PARTY--With a day to go for the election of a leader of the merged parties, a leading member of the Popular Front Party, Dr Safo-adu, has declared his intention to launch a new party. It will be called the New Ghana Party and its symbol is the elephant. At a news conference in Accra this morning, Dr Safo-adu said the formation of the party is the only way left if the new constitutional order and parliamentary democracy are to be preserved. This is because the proposed merger of the minority parties to serve as an alternative to the People's National Party has failed. Dr Safo-adu said the people are disenchanted and any attempt to organize a nationwide opposition later will prove difficult. Dr Safo-adu, who is also a member of the Council of State, said his party will take its roots and strength from the ordinary people, farmers, fishermen, laborers, teachers, market women and all those including the experts and professionals who are leaving the country in disillusionment and in search of livelihoods. Dr Safo-adu said his party is prepared to negotiate and join hands with other political groups or parties which are equally disenchanted with the present state of the proposed merger. [Text] [AB251606 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 25 Sep 81]

BRAZILIAN OIL DELEGATION--Ghana and Brazil are to conclude an agreement on joint oil exploration along Ghana's shores, according to Mr Harado Ramos da Silva, leader of a three-man Brazilian petroleum delegation in Accra. He said successful talks had been held with Mr F. Wulff-Tagoe, Minister of Fuel and Power, and officials of the Geological Survey Department on the oil exploration venture. [Text] [London WEST AFRICA in English No 3344, 31 Aug 81 p 2018]

NO DEVALUATION PLANNED--President Hilla Limann has said he will not give in to demands from members of the minority parties to devalue the cedi. According to GNA, the President told a PNP rally in Koforidua that there was no wisdom in devaluing when output was low. He said his administration would not be forced into taking a step that would make life unbearable for Ghanaians. Dr Limann added that he would not raise the producer price of cocoa above its present level of C120 per 30 kilogrammes. An official statement said the government would announce measures to stimulate the economy when Parliament reopens in October. [Text] [London WEST AFRICA in English No 3344, 31 Aug 81 p 2017]

CSO: 4700/28

PARTICIPATION IN EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS DEBATE URGED

Bissau NO PINTCHA in Portuguese 9 Sep 81 p 1

[Editorial: "A Democratic Act"]

[Text] The PAIGC militants and the people in general will have, once again, the opportunity of implementing a democratic act. To discuss the themes to be debated at the forthcoming extraordinary congress at all levels of the party, at all work places, in all the neighborhoods, in all the farms, is proof that democracy has taken root in this young country. This is one of the gains that our fighting people achieved in the process of national liberation and which they will never give up.

For close to 2 months, the PAIGC fate will be in the hands of all those who will make their contribution. The significance of this congress is obvious. We all know what took place and we are all aware of the need for this great event.

After a glorious struggle unequalled in the history of the African peoples, we fearfully watched the maneuvers aimed at sidetracking our precious tool for struggle from the path magnificently traced by Cabral and put into practice by the armed population. The seat of power, the exercise of power for the sake of power alone led some individuals to forget the glorious epic and disparage whatever was accomplished to date with endless sacrifices.

On 14 November the glorious adjustment took place and ended this untenable situation, creating the necessary conditions for democracy to smile again in our country, for the PAIGC to become a renewed instrument of struggle, for power to be used, once again, as a means and not as an end.

We are fully convinced that discussions will be conducted in a climate of active participation. For or against, you, comrade, will have to pronounce yourself, because the PAIGC belongs to us, to the people, it was created by our people to serve as an instrument of struggle. The fight is not over. As long as poverty, hunger, illiteracy, disease, racism, tribalism, opportunism will be present, as long as underdevelopment persists, the struggle will continue.

Comrade militant, comrade party official, your hour has come. It is necessary for you to participate, and make those around you participate. It is necessary to raise our voice to tell the entire world that, despite the anti-statutory attitude of the Cape Verdian faction, the party of the Guinean people is firm and ready to serve in this difficult hour of struggle against underdevelopment.

Our wish to all the militants and to the entire people is that discussions will be passionate and fruitful. Of one thing we are certain: the national revolutionary democracy will thus emerge more powerful.

CSO: 4728/5

DECREASE IN EXPORTS AFFECTS BISSAU PORT

Bissau NO PINTCHA in Portuguese 8 Aug 81 p 3

[Text] This year 25 ships unloaded almost 35,000 tons of various cargo at the port of Bissau, but loaded only about 11,000 tons. In terms of tonnage, this means our exports have fallen considerably below previous years.

This is due to the irregularity of the rains, which has greatly hurt our agricultural production.

In a statement to ANG [Guinea-Bissau News Agency], about the problems of that sector, Comrade Eduardo Pinto, director general of the Guinea-Bissau port administration, pointed out the problems that high-tonnage ships have in entering Bissau because of the lack of drainage in the channel, making it imperative that it be drained as soon as possible, even if it is a very expensive undertaking.

The enlarging of the capital's wharf, the study of which is being made with the help of the Dutch Government, once completed, will allow for a great improvement in port services, since instead of one ship, at least four ships will be able to dock at a time, with undeniable advantages.

According to the same official, under the control of the autonomous council of Guinea-Bissau ports there are nine warehouses with a capacity of 700 to 800 tons, in addition to the country's almost 500 paid workers, not including some technical equipment such as cranes, carts and forklifts that, in insufficient numbers, continue to guarantee the loading and unloading at the port of Bissau and in the interior of the country.

In the meantime, the Ministry of Transportation, Tourism and Communications has prepared various projects aimed at training of cadres and creation of adequate infrastructures.

9845

CSO: 4728/118

GUINEA-BISSAU

BRIEFS

METEOROLOGICAL COOPERATION WITH USSR--Guinea-Bissau and the Soviet Union will initiate bilateral cooperation in the field of meteorology. A delegation of four officials from the national meteorological service, headed by Comrade Antonio Pereira, will leave next Friday for the USSR at the invitation of the state hydrometeorological committee of that country. Comrade Antonio Pereira affirmed that he hopes to obtain substantial assistance from the USSR to improve meteorological communications in the country and vehicles for the inspection of stations and observations points in the interior of the country. It is hoped also that technicians will come to Guinea-Bissau to help set up new meteorological posts in the interior. The delegation will visit the meteorological centers of Alma Ata, Minsk and Leningrad and will have working sessions in Moscow. As a result of conversations previously held in Bissau, four meteorological service employees left for the Soviet Union on 28 August for a course of studies in that country. One of the study grants is for a higher-level course lasting 6 years and the other three for intermediate-level 4-year courses, including practical training. [Text] [Bissau NO PINTCHA in Portuguese 16 Sep 81 p 2]

BRITISH AID--The British Government has granted material aid amounting to 1 million pounds sterling (about FF 10 million) to Guinea-Bissau, it was learned today. The aid consists of one 2.2 kw power generator, three vehicles and some electrical equipment. The generator which will be installed in Bissau before the end of next March, will boost the electricity supply to the city. [Text] [Paris AFP in French 1325 GMT 19 Sep 81 AB]

CSO: 4719/28

LAW OF SUCCESSION SAID TO BENEFIT ALL

Nairobi THE STANDARD in English 11 Sep 81 p 4

[Editorial]

[Text]

ANY piece of legislation evokes debate even long after the votes have been tallied in the lobbies. It is a healthy sign in a democracy, and this has been the case with the Law of Succession Act, which has recently come into operation in Kenya.

The principal debate here centres on the application of the new law in relation to Islamic law on matters of succession. It must be pointed out that those who have engaged in the debate, and especially the adherents of the Islamic faith, have done so out of sincerity and deep conviction, in the sincere belief that wrongs must be avoided in matters of legislation.

It is, however, important to point to some salient points in this whole issue, if Kenyans of whatever faith are to be satisfied that the Law of Succession Act is a just piece of legislation.

THE points raised by the Muslims in opposition to the Act arise, in fact, as a result of misinterpretation of the Law of Succession Act.

In their protestations, the Muslims have completely ignored the provisions of Section 5(1) of the Act which states that a person can make his will and dispose of his property by reference to any secular or religious law that he chooses, may it be Islamic or Hindu, to mention only two.

People should be aware that a person need not make a written will; it can be oral and serve the same purpose. Hence a Muslim is at liberty to make an oral or written will and state that his property should devolve in accordance with the teachings of the Holy Koran.

The law does not introduce changes in Islamic law as such. It provides for complete freedom of testamentary disposition, subject to certain rights of dependants. This means that any person, whether a Muslim or not, can opt out of the universal law of intestacy by making a will.

NO Muslim is, therefore, being compelled to follow the secular law of inheritance. An orthodox Muslim who does not like the universal intestacy law, need only make a will declaring that his property shall devolve according to Muslim law.

It should also be pointed out that there are many individuals — and even tribes as a whole — who,

although Muslims, do not follow Islamic, but customary law.

It would have been perfectly reasonable for Muslims to argue that Section 40 of the Act, which provides for the equal division of assets of somebody who dies intestate, is against Islamic practice.

Such argument, however, would do no more than demonstrate that there are problems in the application of the law. Rather than make the illegitimate jump from difficulty of application to obligation to obey the law, would it not be proper to say that its application will become easier as society develops and as it becomes common practice for people to make their wills? Is the implied sanction of division of assets according to secular law not an encouragement for people to make their wills?

THE Law of Succession is a secular law and not a divine one. The State here does not seek to legislate for Islam, or for any other religion for that matter. Laws of succession deal exclusively with the disposition of material properties, whereas freedom of religion is concerned only with spiritual freedom.

Certain provisions of the Constitution of Kenya are relevant to the subject of the Law of Succession. The Law cannot be said to have in any way interfered with the "protection of freedom of conscience or religion" in the Kenya Constitution, which provides:

"Except with his own consent no person shall be hindered in the enjoyment of his freedom of conscience, which includes freedom of thought and of religion, freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others, and both in public and in private, to manifest and propagate his religion or belief in worship, teaching, practice and observance."

In other words, the new law does not in any way encroach on a Muslim's right to "manifest, propagate, teach, practise or observe the Muslim religion," as provided for in the Constitution, just as the Constitution does not preclude Parliament from passing laws relating to matters of inheritance, "whether or not such laws directly or indirectly affect the application of religious laws".

A RELEVANT point here is that a serious problem arises from the rule in Islamic law that a non-

Muslim cannot inherit from a Muslim, and the consequent conflict between customary law and Islamic law on the death of a convert to Islam.

There have been numerous complaints of persons with many children who might convert to Islam in their old age, with the result that on their death some distant cousin who happens to be a Muslim might come and claim all property to the total exclusion of the non-Muslim children.

It is provided in Section 26 (1) of the Constitution that: "No law shall make any provision that is discriminatory either of itself or in its effect." Clearly, the above Islamic law is one such case.

The enactment of a law of succession which differs from the Islamic law of succession would not prevent Muslims, as stated earlier, from manifesting, practising or observing the Muslim religion, especially where there is freedom of making a will.

It is clear, therefore, that the laws of succession, though intimately bound with religion in the case of Muslims and others, are proper matters for State legislation. In this connection, there is no difference between Muslims and Christians, in that the law of the State may regulate matters relating to personal law even if such State laws are different from the divine laws.

* * *

ANOTHER argument advanced is any universal law should not apply to Muslims. Apart from the constitutional implications of such a stand, it is argued that Islamic law of succession is part and parcel of the Islamic religion, is divinely ordained and is incapable of change by man. Facts tend to point otherwise.

With one or two exceptions, all countries of the world have seen fit to introduce major reforms in the pure Muslim law, and these countries include the purely Muslim ones of the Middle East, Asia and North Africa.

If Muslim countries have considered it possible to effect changes in Islamic laws, we see no reason why such changes cannot be introduced in a country like Kenya where the Muslims constitute a minority of the population, and where we have a secular rather than an Islamic constitution.

This point should also be seen in the light of some of the arguments advanced against the new Law of Succession. It was maintained that the Islamic law

of inheritance is a perfect system that provides almost equitable distribution to all the deceased's dependants — parents, wives and children (whether male or female).

In view of this, it was suggested that rather than recommend any changes in the Islamic law, serious consideration should be given to its universal application to all the people of Kenya. Well, well, the Christians and the Hindus would obviously have something to say about this.

* * *

AS legal experts have observed, for many years Kenya has suffered from a multitude of different laws of succession applicable to different communities, with increasing confusion as to the application of these laws.

Also, where African customary law has been applicable to the inheritance of estates, it has been very difficult for practising lawyers to advise or for judges to decide precisely what the law is, when dealing with properties such as stocks and shares, motor cars, insurance policies, or investments in businesses or urban properties which were not known to African custom at all until comparatively recent times.

Moreover, traditional methods of administering the estates of deceased persons have regrettably lost to a great extent their sanctity, with consequent irresponsibility — towards other dependants — on the part of those who took control.

Changing attitudes of society with regard to the status of women, children born out of wedlock, and the need to provide for dependants of the deceased have also called for modernisation of Kenya's laws.

Though there are doubtless some defects in the Law of Succession Act which will have to be remedied as and when they become apparent, and no law in respect of such deeply personal matters can be expected to please everyone, there is no doubt that the Act confers great benefits on the public by both clarifying and modernising the law in a manner which should be acceptable to a large majority of citizens, while leaving to individuals great freedom of choice by way of making wills.

It is a law for the benefit of all Kenyans of whatever faith. It is our considered opinion that the Law of Succession should be supported by all Kenyans.

REPORTAGE ON LAW OF SUCCESSION

Islamic Rejection

Nairobi THE WEEKLY REVIEW in English 4 Sep 81 p 8

[Article by Prof. M. Hyder Matano]

[Text]

THE clarification given recently (see *The Weekly Review*, August 14), by the attorney-general, Mr. Joseph Kamere, on the Law of Succession seems to have failed to allay the fears of the Muslim community in Kenya. And it is now clear that the Muslims are set for a straight battle with the attorney-general in their search for a solution to their complaints and disagreements with the law which was enacted in 1972 and became operational on July 1, this year. A week after the clarification by the attorney-general, the Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims, (SCKM), issued a press release stating their objections to the new law saying, "many members of the public are unhappy with the legislation and no amount of clarification can calm this public dismay and unease." The council is preparing a detailed memorandum explaining the unsatisfactory features of the Act and when this is finalised, it will seek an audience with the president in order to present the memorandum to him.

The scenario for the battle thus set, it appears that there will be a major confrontation between the government and the millions of Muslims in the country. Last Wednesday the attorney-

general came out in very strong defence of the law and criticised the Muslims for wanting to have laws for themselves as a separate entity. Kamere said, "The laws of the country are made for all and no section of the Kenyan society will be exempted from them." The attorney-general said that the Muslims were just being misled since 'the law says that if a Muslim wants his property to be inherited under the Islamic law he can say so in his will.

The SCKM chairman Mr. Kassim Mwamzandi says that it is the writing of a will that Muslims are opposed to. But this is what is of greatest importance in the Act. The attorney-general said: "We respect customary laws, including Islamic ones, but we must cater for all and when such laws become outmoded we can't accept them." How this will harmonise the co-existence of Islamic faith and the common law is now the greatest issue at hand. For according to the organising secretary of the SCKM, Mr. Mohamed A. Amana, it is impossible for one to remain a Muslim if he accepts the law. Said Amana, "we will not follow the law because the Quran does not allow us to."

That Muslims object the law, because, among other things, "the

provisions of the law are so alien to the values and traditions of the indigenous people of this country that their wholesale application could cause fear and despondency," and therefore feels that they should bring those fears and anxieties to the attention of the authorities.

Observers now feel that given the stiff reaction from the attorney-general to the SCKM statement, the only avenue left to the Muslims seems to be an appeal to the president himself on

this already very touchy matter. But it is likely that before they appeal to the president, the Muslims will have to exhaust their appeals to the attorney-general since the attorney-general must have decided to make the controversial law operational after exhaustive consultations with the cabinet. Whether Islamic law will prevail over that of the state remains to be seen.

Muslim Crisis

Nairobi THE WEEKLY REVIEW in English 4 Sep 81 p 8

[Text]

THE clarification which was issued by the attorney-general recently on the Law of Succession Act was most welcome. For us Muslims, the clarification served one very important purpose: to clarify to what extent the attorney-general himself is in need of clarification about the Muslims view point on this act.

It is a pity that the new attorney-general (who by all accounts is a very nice and fair-minded person) should have initiated his tour of office as attorney-general with such an unfortunate religious controversy. However, his action of promulgating the Succession Act has presented Muslims in this country with the most serious crisis of conscience in the history of Kenya.

Muslims of this country in all corners of the republic have been at the forefront in demonstrating their loyalty to the state and to the present and previous presidents both of whom have in turn been meticulously generous to Kenya Muslims. Indeed loyalty to the state and to the head of state is one of the tenets of our religion as prescribed by the Holy Qur'an. This loyalty, however, can only be true if it is consistent with our religion as prescribed by the Holy Qur'an.

The attorney-general may maintain that the Law of Succession Act has neither the intention nor the effect of

denying Muslims their freedom of worship. The former we are prepared to believe; the latter, we would respectfully wish to disagree with. How? The attorney-general may say that those Muslims who would wish to follow the provisions of the Holy Qur'an instead of the Law of Succession Act would certainly be allowed to do so by the simple act of writing a will to say that they do not want the Law of Succession to apply to them and that their inheritance be through the Qur'anic laws. And it is exactly this provision that Muslims find abhorrent and unfair. Muslims are being required by this provision to proclaim their adherence to their religion by a will. If this provision is not amended, Muslims would be forced to queue up throughout all corners of the republic to demonstrate that they are still Muslims by writing a will to say that they are still Muslims. Let the attorney-general be under no illusions about this. A Muslim is not a Muslim if he is inherited by any other than the Islamic Laws. Therefore, to remain a Muslim, every Muslim in this country will be forced to write a will no longer merely to say that his wants be inherited by Islamic Law, but in effect to proclaim his adherence to his faith. Surely, this is such a manifestly preposterous imposition upon Muslims that even our

Christian brothers would have in fairness to object to this as a matter of cardinal principle. Therein lies the rub, Mr. Attorney-General. To add insult to injury, even then the so-called will is contestible in a court of law and (hypothetically at least) such as a will could be rendered invalid under other provisions of the act!

Surely it would have been more logical to ask those Muslims that opt out of their religion to do so by writing a will. Let the attorney-general

be under no illusions about the dichotomy that he has precipitated among Kenya Muslims in asking them to choose between adherence to God and adherence to the Law of Succession Act. It would be a pity in the circumstances if the attorney-general were to dismiss the sentiments of Muslims as being merely mass hysteria because in its present form the Law of Succession allows Muslims no option but to disavow their adherence to it on the grounds of religion.

Raging Battle

Nairobi WEEKLY REVIEW in English 11 Sep 81 pp 8-9

[Text] The battle between Muslims and the attorney-general over the Law of Succession rages on. The controversy has reached in the opinion of some observers, a stage that neither of the two parties can resolve, and it is now more than apparent that the predicted desire by the Muslims to have an audience with President Daniel arap Moi for a solution is the only avenue left for the faithful, who still maintain that they cannot follow the new law and at the same time remain adherents of their religion.

In preparation for this encounter with the president, the Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims (SCKM), has sent a letter to all district council chairmen asking them to forward their memoranda to their respective district or provincial commissioners, and also forward copies to the offices of the SCKM in Nairobi. The SCKM, it is understood, was also making arrangements for a high-level meeting for Saturday, September 12. The meeting, sources said, would bring together top Muslim leaders including the Chief Kadhi Sheikh Abdullah al-Farsy, Muslims Lawyers and intellectuals, all the vice-chairmen of district councils and all the leaders of organisations affiliated to the SCKM, in Nairobi. The aim of the meeting, according to the SCKM organising secretary Mr Mohamed Amana, is to prepare a memorandum to be presented to the President with the hope that after the meeting the issues of Law of Succession will finally be resolved.

According to Amana, Muslim opposition has built up to a point where if the SCKM did not restrain its members, some trouble might occur. Amana showed The Weekly Review several documents in his files showing the many letters he has been receiving from various branches of the SCKM in the country opposing the new law.

Late last week, the controversy had got to a stage where it involved Muslim members of parliament who attached the Chief Kadhi for his failure to present their views to the government. The MPs, including an assistant minister for works Mr Mohamed Soba, said the Chief Kadhi as the government's legal advisor on Islamic affairs should not have let the attorney-general have his way in making the new law operational. At that stage, things seemed to have gone out of hand and the SCKM had to come in to warn against any more attacks either on the Chief Kadhi or any other leader in the country in connection with the issue.

The call for the cessation of attacks and counter-attacks however, maintained that the organisation was still determined to ensure that the rights of the Muslims to follow their own laws on inheritance as contained in the Holy Koran were followed. The SCKM said in a press release that they (the Muslims) supported the government and that they were ready to defend their rights as well as those of the whole nation, and the constitution which guarantees freedom of worship. The statement said in part: "Kenya's stand is not to change our basic ideology which was laid down since 1963 when the seed of uhuru (independence) was planted and this seed consists of democracy, prevention against communist penetration into the country in any way, and the freedom to worship a God of one's choice as long as the worshipper is loyal to the government."

While explaining his stand to The Weekly Review this week, Amana claimed that the SCKM had issued the call in order to allay the fears of Muslims and also to set the stage for the forthcoming meeting. Amana reiterated that there is nothing that will divert the Muslims from following the Holy Koran and its teachings. "According to the Holy Koran, where there is a conflict between Islamic Law and the Law of the land, the Muslims will be compelled to follow Islamic Law or else cease to be Muslims any more," he added. And this is, in the opinion of observers, the bottom line for the current controversy. It seems that, whatever happens, the law of the land shall have to give way to that of the Koran, or else there will be no solution. It is a deadlock far beyond the realms of the office of the attorney-general, say some observers.

CSO: 4700/13

POPULATION IS ASSURED OF OIL SUPPLIES

Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 2 Sep 81 pp 1, 24

[Article by Gideon Mulaki and Kariuki Waciira]

[Text]

THERE is no cause for alarm about oil supplies, Energy Minister John Okwango told the Nation yesterday.

He said the oil companies had been told not to hoard fuel. He said the Ministry and oil company representatives were at meetings all day yesterday to discuss the best way of distributing oil, especially paraffin, in the rural areas.

He urged Kenyans not to panic as there was enough oil in the country. Besides, he added, supplies will continue to arrive in Mombasa regularly.

He said the Nairobi terminal currently had 4,161 tons of paraffin, "which can last the country for 12 days" at an average daily

consumption of 348 tons.

He said the current stock of 15,093 tons of Premium petrol was enough for 18 days and 8,243 tons for 13 days.

There are 31,743 tons of jet (A1) oil at Jomo Kenyatta Airport, enough to last 32 days, he added.

Mr. Okwango, however, said the diesel stock of 18,893 tons in the pipeline and 306 tons at the Nairobi terminal was not enough since daily consumption was 1,402 tons. "But today we are receiving 12,000 tons of diesel at Mombasa," Mr. Okwango added.

He said although there was no shortage at present, it sometimes occurred because of various factors.

It may be caused by delays in sanctioning foreign exchange for oil purchases, he said. But the oil firms, he said, had now been given enough foreign exchange to buy their quota of oil.

It could also be caused by pricing, which might make some oil companies unhappy.

He said paraffin, gas and diesel were particularly prone to this. But "we have held discussions with the oil companies and we have agreed that there will be no hoarding."

On diesel, Mr Okwango said the shortage had been caused by the reduction of the diesel content in crude oil being received by Kenya.

"I do not know what it is all about, but currently we have been getting a yield of four percent of diesel instead of the usual 16 percent in our orders," Mr Okwango said, adding that the matter was technical and that the reasons for it were being studied.

He said the idea of some oil companies not selling some products because they were not making enough profit had also been discussed.

He asked wananchi, institutions and industries to economise on the use of oil. He said the demand for diesel had gone up as many people had switched to it due to inflation.

On Monday President Moi directed that 30 per cent of all dual-purpose kerosene used by light aircraft be diverted for domestic consumption.

The President, addressing wananchi at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport before his departure for Paris, also said that enough fuel for all purposes was available in the country.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for Esso company said Kenya had a big surplus of petrol, especially regular.

He said poor supply schedules and transport delays were the causes of any oil shortage in the country, and the shortage was artificial.

The spokesman added that the Esso company had no problems with its foreign exchange quota, which was adequate for buying its petroleum requirements.

The company was buying its crude from Saudi Arabia, a source that offered better prices than other Arab suppliers. Caltex and Mobil were also buying their crudes from the same country, he added.

Commenting on the Presidential directive that 30 per cent of dual-purpose kerosene be diverted to domestic users, he said Esso would not be affected by the order.

"We have in fact been exceeding the 30 per cent limit and selling a large portion of our dual-purpose kerosene to domestic users than many other oil companies. We have never held back dual-purpose kerosene from domestic users to take advantage of the relatively higher prices of aviation fuel," he said.

Before President Moi issued the order on Monday, oil companies were generally selling only 20 per cent of their dual-purpose kerosene stocks to domestic users, while 80 per cent was going to airlines, according to sources.

CSO: 4700/13

ARINGO RAPS FOREIGN COMMERCIAL BANKS

Nairobi THE STANDARD in English 14 Sep 81 p 3

[Text]

FOREIGN commercial banks in the country have been accused of leaving the Kenyan poor in the cold by concentrating their lending activities on multinationals and the rich.

The accusation came from the Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Mr. Peter Oloo-Aringo, when addressing a special annual general meeting of the Sauti Savings and Credit Society (formed by employees of his Ministry) at the weekend.

The banks Mr. Aringo charged, only served "multinationals and the haves," adding that the present banking system was geared against the poor man who had no title deeds as security to get loans.

Praising the co-operative movement for the role it had played in improving the standard of living for the ordinary *mwananchi*,

The Minister urged co-operative societies to venture into commercial banking and insurance business to serve the Kenyan poor.

"Unless societies like yours engage in those ventures, there is no way the poor man can gain from the present banking system", he said.

He charged that the banking system did not bother to investigate whether the poor man deserved a loan as long as the applicant did not have property.

The Minister said the control of the national economy rested mainly on banking and insurance business. "We cannot keep on crying on foreign

domination", Mr. Aringo said, adding that many people had remained poor because they lacked initial capital to begin business.

The Government was aware that credit and savings societies could break the barrier and it was for this reason it had continued to encourage and support the movement, the Minister said.

He described co-operative societies as wonderful instruments of moulding national consciousness due to their very nature of involving people of various ethnic background working together.

He suggested that welfare organisations should be formed within this framework and not on the past clanish way of life.

Mr. Aringo lamented that many professional people like engineers and lawyers were unable to open offices because of the present bureaucratic banking system.

People leaving the universities with bachelor of science degrees had been turned into salesmen by the multinationals for lack of capital to start their own dynamic undertakings, he said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Aringo has called on the local Press to boost relations between Kenya and Somalia. He made the call just before leaving for a four-day visit to Somalia.

TRADE UNIONISM ALLEGED TO CATER TO INDIVIDUALS

Nairobi THE STANDARD in English 9 Sep 81 p 4

[Editorial: "The Betrayal of the Workers"]

[Text]

ALTHOUGH elections to national offices in the Central Organisation of Trade Unions (C.O.T.U.) are scheduled for Saturday, the problems that have led to their postponement for more than a year do not seem to have been resolved, right up to these last few days.

The reasons for this would seem to be all too obvious. It is not the workers' representation that seems to be at stake at Kisumu Labour College next Saturday, it is the personal fortunes of individual trade union leaders who will be seeking offices in C.O.T.U.

In the latest row, C.O.T.U. officials were arguing whether two affiliated unions would be entitled to vote during the Saturday elections. The people involved in the meeting are mostly those who will be requiring votes at Kisumu.

It was, therefore, important for them to ascertain whether delegates of the two unions concerned were likely to vote for them in Kisumu, or for their opponents. If they were likely supporters, then they should be admitted, and if not then they were not qualified. The merits of the two unions' proper affiliation to C.O.T.U. did not seem to count for much.

As we have pointed out before, trade unionism at the top in this country has tended to move from representing the interests of the workers to that of pursuing individual interests. If this has happened because elections for national offices are around the corner, then it is a lesser disease but one which is still harmful to the interests of the workers in general.

If it has happened because trade unionism has become an all too convenient platform on which to nurture individual ambitions, it would mean that the workers of this country are being cheated of their legal union representation and the dues that they pay.

What has emerged recently is that top trade unionists have divided themselves into distinct groups to fight for positions within C.O.T.U. There is nothing wrong in deciding who will be your friends in a fair contest. This is absolutely legiti-

mate, as long as the interests of those who sent you to the battlefield are still paramount in the contest.

Unfortunately, the way things are at the moment, the interests of those who made trade unionists what they are, do not figure even in the small print of the various manifestos of the groupings that have chosen to wage the C.O.T.U. battle. There is little doubt that until the C.O.T.U. leadership issue is settled, those involved will not be keen to participate in collective bargaining with employers or settling urgent disputes in industry.

Housing is perhaps the biggest problem facing Kenyan workers today, particularly those living in urban areas. The trade union movement, especially a powerful one like C.O.T.U., is one that can be intimately involved with this problem, not only in seeing that a housing element is included in a worker's wage, but being one of the promoters of workers' housing schemes itself. Is housing one of the issues that will form the basis of the choice of leaders in Kisumu on Saturday? It does not even figure in the minds of the delegates who will be casting votes there.

Education, both formal and informal, is an aspect of life that any trade union movement cannot ignore in its strategy for fighting for a better life for the workers it represents. Has this been an issue in all the rhetoric building up to Saturday's elections? Not at least in the vast amount of paper the officials have wasted on Press releases to make claims and counter-claims as to who commands the biggest following in the labour movement.

The trade union movement has an admirable history of struggle and service to the people of this country. Its previous leaders were people who were prepared to make great sacrifices to fight for the rights of the workers in an atmosphere of oppression, as opposed to our present leaders who have the advantage of freedom and full democratic rights in which to do their work.

It is a great pity that all they consider worth doing is fighting for individual positions, with little regard for the welfare of the Kenya worker.

COUNTRY HAS HUGE COFFEE SURPLUS

Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 15 Sep 81 p 3

[Article by Kariuki-Waciira]

[Text]

KENYA has over one million bags of coffee in excess of the export quota allocated by the International Coffee Organisation for the year ending in October.

A spokesman for the Coffee Board of Kenya said Kenya exhausted her export quota last July. Some of the surplus produced after this time will be sold in non-quota markets at much lower prices than the prevailing market prices.

Coffee dealers are also buying some of the coffee surplus, to be delivered later as a part of Kenya's export quota for the coming year.

A source in board said news of the Brazil frost boosted auction prices. In the last two months, prices have risen from £1,100 to £1,300 per bag. Prices in the next season are expected to rise further as prospectors build up stocks to sell later at high market prices.

However, the effect of the Brazil frost, which is reported to have damaged half of the country's crop, will not be fully realised until during the 1982/83 coffee year.

At the time of the frost, Brazil's crop for the coming season had been fully harvested.

Negotiations are underway in the London headquarters of the ICO between 72 coffee-growing and importing countries.

This is in an effort to determine the global demand of coffee in the next coffee year, and to allocate individual export shares for each of the 47 coffee-growing countries, including Kenya.

The discussions will also set a minimum coffee price level at which both producers and consumers agree to allow coffee prices to fluctuate, during the next coffee year.

According to an ICO report, current coffee prices on the international market are well below the \$1.15 per pound level. If world supply is not regulated through low export quotas, prices for the coming season could be depressed even further.

Stability

According to coffee market analysts, the overall size of the next season's quotas should stay at around the present level of 51.2 million bags in order to restore price stability.

Most coffee producers, all of them developing countries, are anxious to achieve higher coffee prices since coffee exports are their major source of foreign exchange.

But at the same time, they want higher export quotas to dispose of their high production. The United States, the world's

largest coffee importer has said any attempt to boost prices will fail if export quotas are not lowered.

Last year's experience was that high export price for coffee producers, of 57.7 million bags, saw prices falling to very low levels.

By the end of the year the overall quota had to be reduced by four successive cuts to 51.1 million bags while prices continued to slump.

According to the ICO, world coffee prices have declined from an average \$1.35 a pound in the 1979/80 coffee year to around 1.15 cents for the past 11 months.

KENYA

BRIEFS

ARAB TRADERS--Nairobi, September 10--A 20-man trade delegation from the Union of Arab Chambers of Commerce and Industry, consisting of members from Jordan, Dubai, Iraq, Oman, Syria, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, among others, arrived here today for a five-day visit to Kenya. During their visit, they are expected to sign a trade agreement with their Kenyan counterpart, the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, for future cooperation and trade. Welcoming the delegation, the Chairman of the Kenyan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Francis Macharia, said the recent establishment of the Middle East Bank in Nairobi and the introduction of similar institutions on both sides would go a long way in helping develop trade. (A.F.P.) [Text] [Paris AFRICA AFP in English 11 Sep 81 p 19]

CSO: 4700/13

ALBERT PORTE EMERGES AS HERO OF REVOLUTION

Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 15 Sep 81 p 6

[Article by Chege Mbitiru in column "News Background": "Man Behind the Coup in Liberia"]

[Text]

MONROVIA, Monday

ON the night of April 13, 1979, the late President William Tolbert sent an envoy to a village called Crozierville, a mere fifteen-minutes drive from here.

The house they were going to wasn't (and still isn't) of the type inhabited by presidential confidants. It is of a transplanted North America architecture of the late century. It even appears uncompleted.

Surrounding it is a collection of varied plants — bananas, oranges, breadfruits, breadnuts, pineapples and sugar canes.

But the envoy had been told by Tolbert to deliver the occupant to the Israel-built architectural monument in Monrovia called the Executive Mansion. One day short of a year that evening, Tolbert was to die there, a victim of a coup led by then Master Sgt. Samuel Kanyon Doe.

It was not unusual for this occupant, Albert Porte, to be summoned by the powers that be in Liberia. He had been feuding with them since 1927 and was a thorn to the flesh of four presidents: King, Barclay, Tubman and now Tolbert.

On arrival at the executive mansion, Porte, a diminutive man with grey and thinning hair, was shown a pamphlet that had been circulating in town that day. He himself had written many pamphlets attacking many government policies. But this was not one of them.

But Tolbert was not accusing him of having written it. He wanted Porte to go and tell the authors to call off the demonstration against increases in the price of rice that they planned for the next day.

Porte, 79, agreed and one can see him frantically looking for the organisers of the demonstration. "It was late at night," he recalled recently. But he found them. They could not call off the demonstration. It was too late. But they will go and appease the people and then continue negotiating with the Tolbert Administration.

He reported this to Tolbert and then asked him to compromise. "But Tolbert would have nothing of that," Porte recalls. These people, he said, had defied the order from the Attorney-General not to demonstrate, "they can't defy the government".

Porte went back to Crozierville. The following morning the demonstration took place. "Liberia has never seen anything like that," recalls a veteran journalist.

Policemen opened fire to the crowd heading to the Executive Mansion. They had orders to do so and obeyed. The army also had orders to shoot to kill. The soldiers, however, did not. Many joined the now disorganised crowd in looting. One who later claimed not to have joined the looters but to have disobeyed the orders and asked others to do likewise was Master Sgt. Doe.

When Tolbert was finally dead and Master Sgt. Doe had installed himself at the Executive Mansion, the old man Porte surfaced again.

He was photographed, flanked by his wife and Doe in fatigues, an unlit cigarette in the mouth and a walkie-talkie, the symbol of power in his regime, in hand.

Doe was honouring himself, the Commander of the Armed Forces and now the number two Gen. Thomas Quiwonkpa by, symbolically, naming two coast guard patrol boats after themselves.

The third one was being named Albert Porte. "I was not expecting it," he says, "but I think, and I ally this with humility, it was expressive of the respect people of this country seem to have for me."

It is not that Porte is a sleek wheeler-dealer consumed with a sense of opportunism, that he found himself being honoured.

"I always advocated change," he says, "but constitutional change and we would have had it if it were not for some obstacles: Stubbornness of our leaders and the habit of the young copying them."

Porte had modest formal education and his father, a clergyman, at one time wanted him to go to America, but he did not want to, he says with a chuckle.

When his father died when in first semester in college in Liberia, Porte turned, ironically he says, to American correspondence courses: English expression.

Porte's first clash with authorities came in 1931. He was teaching in a school and also editing the *Crosierville Observer* (circulation: 300).

He refused to make contributions to the True Whig Party on the grounds that the seizure of his check did not amount to "voluntary contribution." (The True Whig Party twice a year cut all

employees' cheques by half for its coffers).

One of the party officials involved was William R. Tolbert Jr., as the paymaster.

Later Porte got his cheque, cashed it and made a voluntary contribution. It was rejected.

During the same year Porte wrote an editorial in the *Observer* saying President King's heart is hardened." King sued him for libel but his lawyers did not pursue the case and "it fizzled off."

"Most people saw that as the beginning of the fall of President King," now Porte says.

The most celebrated of Porte's confrontations with the authorities took place during the Tubman and Tolbert Administrations. One was in 1955 and involved the purchase of a Presidential Yatch. In a pamphlet (his *Observer* had long died and "newspapers would not publish my articles") Porte said the country could not afford it. Tubman disagreed and called Porte "censorious" of every administration.

Characteristically Porte answered, telling Tubman that he was entitled to his views as the first citizen of the Republic and even had the right to describe Porte in any language. He stuck to his position: The country could not afford a Presidential Yatch.

It was also the same year in one of his one-sheet pamphlet called "Bulletin Extraordinary" that he criticised the legislature for endorsing the Boni Hills Iron Ore Concession, pointing out the disadvantages to the country.

The legislature cited him for contempt. While being mistreated over his bond on the ground that those who had signed it were otherwise committed, Porte told the Attorney-General he had no money to pay the bond. "You will have to put me behind bars if I have to produce another bond," he said and walked out.

He was eventually arrested,

found guilty by the Judicial Committee of the House of Representatives and jailed for thirty days. "Which I served." In all, he was jailed three times during the Tubman Administration.

It was during the Tolbert Administration that it became evident that Porte's ideas were acceptable to the youth. He was opposed to the legalisation of gambling and he accused Stephen Tolbert, Finance Minister and Brother to the President of conflict of interests.

The Minister sued him for libel. In his support there was formed an organisation called "Citizens of Liberia in Defense of Albert Porte." This group had many young people and ended up in a confrontation with police at the University of Liberia.

But Porte was finally found guilty by what he was to call "a spurious jury, picked from the crumbs of society" and fined \$250,000. That was at the end of 1974 but Stephen Tolbert died the following April the judgment was never enforced.

It was, therefore, inevitable that Porte would emerge as one of the heroes of the revolution. But while comfortable with the new regime, he is not part of it. He serves in the Constitutional Commission "but I have refused any official position. If I do, I think my credibility will suffer".

But there is also another reason. Early this year he told a Liberian reporter that "a military government, by its very nature, is authoritarian in character: Is away from the normal democratic process and is, therefore, dictatorial...."

He did not call Doe a dictator. But if the past is any guide, he will when he thinks he has turned one. Porte is 75 and as he told a foreign diplomat: "There are very many things I want to do." One of those things is to see the democratic process he has sought established in Liberia.

CHARGES OF WRONGDOING AGAINST MILITIA, VIGILANCE GROUPS

Official Speaks Up

Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 23 Aug 81 p 1

[Text] "Militia and Vigilance Groups that are guilty of wrongdoing should be removed," ordered Vice Minister of Interior Raposo Pereira during a meeting with the residents of Mikadjuine neighborhood. He considers the elements who as members of the militia and Vigilance Groups help in the practice of speculation and food smuggling as infiltration and opportunities.

Raposo Pereira also criticized the poor functioning of the political bodies in that neighborhood because of deficient work among the people by these bodies and because of lack of initiative to solve the various problems of that suburban neighborhood of the capital.

Analyzing the actions carried out by the militia and Vigilance Groups, the vice minister characterized as very bad the activity of those elements of the defense and security forces and recommended to the secretary of the Action Group of the neighborhood to take appropriate measures against those whose behavior is incompatible with their duties.

At the meeting with the residents of that neighborhood, which lasted almost 4 hours, Raposo Pereira confirmed that because of poor political work carried out by the Action Group even party members let themselves be corrupted, falling into the business of speculating and smuggling bread and other products.

"It is preferable to have one militiaman, one Vigilance Group, than a group of scoundrels and opportunists who only want to abuse the people," said Raposo Pereira in stressing the need to change the behavior and clean up the ranks.

According to what was reported to the vice minister by some participants in the meeting, the militia and the GV [Vigilance Groups] operated only before the establishment of the new supply system. At that time, taking advantage of their position, they purchased large quantities of goods at the waiting lines. "Since the establishment of the new supply system, the majority of the militia and the GV's began withdrawing because they could not benefit at the lines," said one of the persons at the meeting.

"Now many of them, even members of the party, are going around selling bread and other products at speculative prices which we are fighting," added one of the militia, denouncing the prevailing situation.

The Court of "Three" To Solve the Situation

After appealing for unity of efforts between the police and the people to put an end to speculation, banditry and other evils, the vice minister of interior announced that a recently created court for Xipamanine, Mafalala and Mikadjuine will help put an end to these problems by trying all criminals, "regardless of whether they are militia, GV's or members of the party."

Speaking about the specific problems and complaints of bad service against some policemen serving at the 7th squadron, Raposo Pereira made the provincial director of the PIC [Criminal Investigation Police] responsible for increasing investigations and trying to find solutions.

The vice minister of interior called special attention to the activity of the political office in the neighborhood saying that only when it works to educate the citizens will there be an end to the problems of infiltration of militia and GV's who swear to defend and serve the people and end up by despising them.

In this connection he announced that for the voluntary brigades of the PPM [Mozambican People's Police] to be established in all neighborhoods, the only persons who will be accepted are those whose life style and behavior show interest in the defense and wellbeing of the people.

Purges in Vigilance Groups

Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 23 Aug 81 p 2

[Excerpt] "There are serious contradictions among the members of the secretariats of Vigilance Groups. We find negligence, slander and discussions of organizational matters outside the offices," said an official of the Vigilance Groups at the local level when he presided over a meeting with members of that organization of popular power at the Maputo Vigilance Group headquarters yesterday morning.

The official made reference also to the establishment of centers for exchange of experiences in order to reply to the lack of uniformity among the different Vigilance Groups.

"There has been weak participation which resulted in failure," he said, and continued: "We are interested in finding out immediately the causes for this lack of success."

"In these centers we shall be able to verify the evils which afflict the Vigilance Groups." In this manner the officials of the Department of Information and Propaganda, and Organization and Control of the firm Pendray and Sousa were suspended from their posts. The official of the Department of Information and Propaganda of the FRIMOL firm was also removed from the Vigilance Group of his firm.

DELAY IN RELEASING INNOCENT WORKERS REGRETTED

Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 23 Aug 81 p 8

[Excerpts] Some 88 Mozambican citizens were finally released after having been under arrest since the beginning of the year on suspicion of participating in serious irregularities in the Maintenance Center and Offices of the National Defense Ministry.

Other 92 former employees of that center were turned over to the Criminal Investigation Police to be submitted to judicial proceedings.

The investigations were made public recently by Minister of National Defense Alberto Chipande during a meeting with the former workers of the Maintenance Center and Offices of the MDN [National Defense Ministry].

During the meeting Alberto Chipande explained that the preventive arrest of these persons was made to determine the responsibilities of the serious irregularities perpetuated at the Maintenance Center and Offices of the Defense Ministry.

These irregularities consisted in illegal sales of vehicles, operational or not, under the pretext of being beyond repair, as well as removal of motors, parts and tools belonging to the Ministry. Also under investigation are other irregularities committed with the complicity of Lt Col Jossias Dlhakama, who was in charge of the Technical Board of Armored Vehicles at that time.

During the above-mentioned meeting, Alberto Chipande admitted and expressed regrets for the delay in the investigations, which only now allowed the release of the 88 innocent persons who were under arrest since the beginning of the year. Justifying the detention of the innocent persons, the minister of national defense said that it was necessary to investigate because our authority was involved.

In the meantime, recognizing the preventive nature of the arrests, the Ministry of National Defense was giving a monthly subsidy to the families of those arrested while the investigations were in progress, said Alberto Chipande.

"Those who are guilty will be tried in accordance with the law because these are crimes against our state," explained the minister of defense. Addressing the 88 now released innocent workers he said: "You will be reintegrated into the society; the minister of defense has already made contacts with the Executive Council of the City of Maputo to place you."

Alberto Chipande told them to channel to the MDN all the difficulties they may encounter in their process of entering into production units, and guaranteed that no one will be unemployed.

MOZAMBIQUE

MILITARY TRIBUNAL SENTENCES TEN

LD071534 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1800 GMT 26 Sep 81

[Communique issued by the Revolutionary Military Tribunal of the People's Republic of Mozambique]

[Text] The Revolutionary Military Tribunal met 18-20 September 1981, (?in the capital of Manica Province, to try individuals for crimes against the security of the people and the people's state. During the trial the cases of the following accused were heard:

1. (Elias Shagolisse Chumba), age 35, married, and from Rotanda, Manica Province. [Word indistinct] the son of (Shagolisse Chumba) and (Shamushia Chira); a Mozambique citizen.
2. (Tondozaí Gastoi, age 21, single, and from [word indistinct] Manica Province, [word indistinct] the son of (Gastoi) and (Julieta); a Mozambique citizen.
3. (Daniel Chamatoeira Muchanga), age 22, single, from Espungabera, Manica Province, [word indistinct] the son of (Chamatoeira Muchanga) and [name indistinct] (Nyamula); a Mozambique citizen.
4. (Francisco Arane Madura), bachelor, age 25, from Rotanda, Manica Province, son of (Arane Madura) and [name indistinct]; a Mozambique citizen.
5. (Lucas Joao Chissano) [name indistinct], bachelor, age 28, from Catandica, Manica Province; laundry worker, son of (Joao Catapila) and (Caterina); a Mozambique national.
6. (Zeca Pinto) [name indistinct], bachelor, age 25, from Chimoio, Manica Province; worker with Textafrica enterprise, son of (Chief Chilai) and (Marque Zunge); a Mozambique national.
7. (Paulo Daniel Madia), married, age 56, from Manhica; mechanic, son of (Madia Daniel) and [names indistinct]; a Mozambique national.
8. (Jorge Antonio Manhique), married, age 27, from Gaza; book-keeper and typist, son of (Antonio Manhique) and (Lidia Machado); a Mozambique national.

9. (Custodio Julio da Paiva), bachelor, age 22, son of (Julio Paiva) and (Cavulae Macanissa), from [name indistinct], member of the People's Police of Mozambique; a Mozambique national.

10. (Tomas Sozinho Jane), married, age 57, farmer, son of (Jane) and (Alice Gumbe), native of Sussundenga, Manica; a Mozambique national.

After concluding the trial, the Revolutionary Military Tribunal was convinced that the accused committed the following actions:

(Elias Shagolisse Chumba): having joined the enemy, the accused joined the ranks of the so-called Mozambique national resistance on 15 March 1980. He received military training for 3 months.

The accused took part in a number of armed attacks against defenseless civilians, from whom he stole a number of [word indistinct] clothes and food and indiscriminately massacred [words indistinct]. The accused also took part in clashes against the FPLM [Mozambique Armed Forces] in the areas of Mutangane, [names indistinct] Chicamba and Mavombe. During a clash with the FPLM, the accused fled and was later detained by members of the people's militia.

With this evidence, the tribunal considered (Elias Shagolisse Chumba) to be guilty of the following crimes: collaborator and member of a clandestine organization, terrorism and armed rebellion. The tribunal, accordingly, condemned him to death.

(Tondozaï Gastoi): In April 1979, the accused voluntarily and willingly joined the so-called free Africa clandestine organization. He was given military training at (Rhodes) in the then southern Rhodesian colony. The training took 3 months. After the military training, the individual was introduced to the [name indistinct] enterprise as one of the best directors.

He was then sent to Mozambique with a group of 50 armed men. They set up a base in Gorongosa area. Once in Gorongosa, the accused and 50 armed men took part in a number of massacres of defenseless civilians [word indistinct] in the areas of Chatola and Dombe. Their targets were mainly village communes. The accused fled to the home of relatives after the base at which he was stationed was attacked by the FPLM. Having arrived at the home of his relatives, he threatened the villagers with his rifle and fled toward the then southern Rhodesia. He was later apprehended by people's vigilantes.

In view of these facts, the tribunal considered (Tondozaï Gastoi) to be guilty of the following crimes: collaborator and member of a clandestine organization, armed rebellion and terrorism. He was therefore sentenced to death.

(Daniel Chamatoeira Muchanga): Having voluntarily joined the so-called Mozambique national resistance counterrevolutionary group, the accused was sent to Goigoi area. In that area he was trained for 1 month. After the training, the accused was given a machinegun. The accused joined a group which attacked and spread panic among the people. He plundered property and foodstuff, cattle and other goods of the people. He broke into stores to pillage essential commodities and money.

He stole a total of 20,000 (medicals). He indiscriminately massacred defenseless civilians. During attacks on canteens, the accused was involved in fighting with members of the FPLM on three instances. During an attack by the FPLM on a base where the accused was stationed, he fled and tried to mingle with the population. He was finally detected and captured by people's vigilantes.

In view of such evidence, the tribunal considered the accused, (Daniel Chamatoeira Muchanga), to be guilty of the following crimes: collaborator and member of a clandestine organization, armed rebellion and terrorism. Accordingly he was sentenced to death.

(Francisco Arane Madura): The accused voluntarily joined the enemy ranks on 26 February 1980. He was taken to an area called (Achetembue), in Rotanda, where he stayed for 2 weeks. He was taken to (Nvala), where he was given military training for 45 days. After the training, he and his group were given [word indistinct] and semi-automatic rifles. From that time on, the accused carried out counterrevolutionary and subversive activity.

He concentrated his activities in the areas of Matandai, Nhaminga, Dombe, (Brize) and [name indistinct] kidnapped one soldier and robbed [words indistinct]. At the time, he and his group [words indistinct] killed [words indistinct] soldiers. During one terrorist attack, the accused opened fire with a machinegun on a civilian vehicle, killing the driver and [words indistinct] in Dombe area.

On 25 April 1980, [words indistinct] was attacked and destroyed by the FPLM. The accused fled to Zimbabwe. However, he returned to Mozambique 2 months later with the aim of resuming his counterrevolutionary activities. He was (?then captured) by the FPLM.

In the face of such evidence, the tribunal considered (Francisco Arane Madura) to be guilty of the following crimes: member of and collaborator with a clandestine organization, armed rebellion and terrorism. Accordingly, he was sentenced to death.

(Lucas Joao Chissano) [name indistinct] having expressed sympathetic feelings for the counterrevolution, the accused joined the enemy. He was taken to the then southern Rhodesia colony, where he was given military training at (?Inyanga) barracks for 3 months. After the training, the accused and his group were again taken into Mozambique territory. They set up base at [name indistinct]. From that area, the group began ambushing and attacking both military and civilian targets.

On one occasion they ambushed an FPLM detachment which was traveling from Dombe to Espungabera. In this attack the bandits used mortars, bazookas and machineguns. They also attacked a train near Inchope, where the accused and his fellow gangsters stole some essential goods and kidnapped five people, including the train driver. They carried out a number of ambushes on national highway Number One. They destroyed two trucks, three light cars and some pick-ups from which they stole a number of goods. They broke into shops at Goigoi and (Nhadera) where they stole food intended for the local population. They destroyed a bridge on the [words indistinct] road.

In view of such evidence, the tribunal considered the accused, (Lucas Joao Chissano) [name indistinct] guilty of the following crimes: member of and collaborator with a clandestine organization, armed rebellion, terrorism and sabotage. Accordingly, he was sentenced to death.

(Zeca Pinto) [name indistinct]: The accused was a worker with the Chimoio Textafrika enterprise. As a worker of Textafrika, on 12 September 1980, he went to sleep in one of the factory's cotton warehouses because he was feeling ill, thus (?breaching) the enterprise's rules. The accused also broke the (?doors) of one warehouse and [words indistinct] cotton stored in the warehouse. [passage indistinct] He caused damage to the enterprise amounting to (?37.4) million meticals. This was the corresponding value of about (71,636) tons of cotton.

In view of such evidence, the tribunal considered the accused as guilty of the crime of sabotage and negligence. However, the tribunal decided to be lenient because of his circumstances at the time of the incident. As he regretted the results of his action, the tribunal decided to sentence the accused to a 6-year jail term.

(Paulo Daniel Madia): The accused voluntarily joined the so-called clandestine resistance organization which is popularly known as Free Africa. He established direct contact with a Free Africa (?agent) from whom he received the order to [passage indistinct]. In view of such facts, the tribunal considered (Paulo Daniel Madia) guilty of the crime of belonging to and collaborating with a clandestine organization, and sentenced him to an 8-year jail term.

(Jorge Antonio Manhique): The accused was the district secretary for party ideological work in Manica and a worker with the census registration department. He was compelled to commit crimes because of a woman. He wanted to eliminate his most direct rival. [passage indistinct] accordingly, the tribunal considered (Jorge Antonio Manhique) guilty of the crime of giving offense to party and government officials, and sentenced him to a 4-year jail term.

(Custodio Julio da Paiva): The accused [words indistinct] member of the people's police of Mozambique. [words indistinct] In July 1979, he took advantage of his position in the police to have sexual contacts with a woman. [passage indistinct] he decided to flee to the then South Rhodesia in order to join the enemy ranks.

In his bid to escape, the accused traveled to the border via secret mountain passes. However, he was detected by people's vigilantes and detained near the border while trying to escape.

Together with this evidence, the tribunal also considered the particularly serious fact that the accused had been a member of the people's police of Mozambique and was deployed at an area where our territorial integrity was most (?threatened) by Rhodesian forces.

The tribunal considered the accused, (Custodio Julio da Paiva), guilty of the crime of attempts to join the enemy, albeit a frustrated attempt and sentenced him to an 8-year jail term.

(Tomas Sozinho Jane): The accused was the owner of a banana plantation in the district of Sussundenga. On 15 September 1978, his farm was attacked by a gang of bandits of the Free Africa counterrevolutionary movement. During the attack the gang kidnapped ten workers of the accused and left behind a lot of counter-revolutionary propaganda. A few hours later, after learning of the attack, the accused decided to pursue the gang of bandits whom he found hidden in the area. [passage indistinct]

The tribunal considered (Tomas Sozinho Jane) guilty of the crime of [words indistinct]. He was sentenced to a 4-year jail term.

Chimoil 24th (twenty fourth) September 1981 (eighty one).

[Signed] The Revolutionary Military Tribunal, 24 September 1981.

CSO: 4728/2

MOSLEM RELIGION SEEN INFLUENCING POPULAR INDOLENCE

Maputo TEMPO in Portuguese 30 Aug 81 pp 15-16

[Article by Filipe Mata: "Mocimboa da Praia"]

[Excerpts] When asked what they were, fishermen or peasants, their only reaction was silence, making it clear that they were neither, and perhaps a little of both at the same time. We were meeting with a small rural Moslem community in Lussoma, a locality in Mocimboa da Praia on the Indian Ocean. As far as the eye could see, there was a palm tree plantation, abandoned by its owners a long time ago and now completely uncared-for, invaded by tall weeds.

On the way to that locality, we had crossed Anga, a vast cashew tree area, where cashew trees, hundreds of thousands of them, are also abandoned, taken over by parasitic weeds or simply burned.

An inhabitant of this region traveling with us explained that both in Anga and in Lussoma, the former owners of the cashew and palm tree plantations had made a great deal of money, exploiting the people of the area, who now are totally unaware of what to do to ensure their subsistence.

Prodded by Marcelino dos Santos, Central Committee secretary for the party's economic policy, the dialogue with the community continued. The ignorance and unawareness of many of those people in relation to their role in taking advantage of nature was obvious.

When Marcelino dos Santos asked whether they discussed their problems, Che answered that they talk when it is necessary. When asked what their problems are, they told the story of the leopard that had mauled a person a few weeks before. When Marcelino dos Santos spoke of the economic importance of these two plantations and asked the community to express their opinion on what would be needed for their recovery, Che provided an immediate answer: "We need a tractor."

The existence of a port that handled considerable quantities of goods in its time, of a splendid airport where even a Boeing can land, of roads that are in better condition than in other districts are some of the factors that make Mocimboa da Praia one of the more privileged areas of Cabo Delgado.

Despite this potential, however, a considerable percentage of the population, especially on the coast, does not take advantage of the riches offered by the land on which it lives.

The paralyzed port, the abandoned palm tree plantation, the atrophied cashew tree plantation, all give the impression of a life lived at the pace of those old men who slowly walk the streets of this coastal city refreshed by the Indian Ocean breezes in their long white robes and sandals.

"I have two fixed images of life in this district," a young official working in Mocimboa da Praia told us. "While in the interior one can already see a certain dynamism among the peasants, on the coast it seems that many persons' socio-economic activities are restricted to walking down to the sea in the morning to catch just enough fish for that day's meals, and in the afternoon, to sit under a coconut tree and tell stories."

The deficient political work conducted here from the time since independence is frequently acknowledged as being at the origin of such a situation. This may well be one of the causes, but it cannot justify this state of affairs. Persons who know better argue that the widespread practice of the Moslem religion by the greatest part of the coastal population is also at the source of the unawareness of many of its adherents in regard to their material problems.

On the other hand, Mocimboa da Praia is a region where the armed revolutionary struggle for national liberation was not as heavily felt as in other districts of Cabo Delgado. "The great influence of this quite conservative religion on a population that did not experience much of the armed struggle, and the limitations of some local officials in sensitizing the people about the ideals of the revolution without coming in conflict with religious feelings are some of the factors that must be taken into account when the political situation in Mocimboa is analyzed," that same young official said in conclusion.

This argument should not be overlooked. The need to intelligently mobilize a deeply religious population for a new life was demonstrated on the day on which the delegation under Marcelino dos Santos arrived in this district. On that day, the conversation centered on two questions: the arrival of this important group and the massive reception it met with.

The curious fact was that, even though that was the day of Idi, a Moslem holiday marking the end of Ramadan, and the group's arrival coincided with the hour of the religious ceremony, local structures had met with religious leaders and had discussed whether prayers could not start before the set time so that the people could attend the welcoming ceremonies.

The various Ches applauded such an initiative, and the people organized themselves, pouring into the streets en masse for the reception.

CSO: 4728/4

MEASURES ADOPTED TO COMBAT FRESH PRODUCE BOYCOTT

Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 21 Aug 81 p 1

[Text] The organizations linked to the distribution and supply of fresh produce in the city are beginning a program to organize private trade in fruits and vegetables in the markets and fresh produce stores. This operation is being carried out in conjunction with the executive council and is also aimed at bringing to the attention of the retailers the fact that they should conduct their business within the framework of the socioeconomic conditions assigned to them by the law on private trade.

The program to organize the supply of fresh produce to the city seeks to extend the struggle against the recent boycott by the petty bourgeoisie "shopkeeper"--private businessmen and suppliers of horticultural products--in the city of Maputo. As we stated in articles printed at the time, that boycott, which was a real challenge to the state's power, sought to cause the cancellation of or a change in the fixed price schedule reducing prices for horticultural products during the current peak season.

This organizational operation has already been started in the markets and it is aimed at the statistical control of the products coming into the city of Maputo, their origin and, if possible, their destination.

The main goals are to get information about the influence of various production sectors on the supply of fresh produce to the city and to determine the level of consumer demand for various products to improve the planning and staggered scheduling of production and distribution of these products.

The purpose of this operation among the merchants is to allow the most reliable, after proper guidance, to get preference in the distribution of products that may eventually become scarce.

In the meantime, the situation has improved substantially in nearly all the markets, both in the supply of all fresh produce and in the arrangement and display of the stalls. Now it is possible to see signs on the stand listing the prices of each product, in accordance with the new price schedules.

At the same time, the private suppliers are already distributing products in the markets once again, fully observing the regulations in force. We should note the expansion of stabilizing stalls among the merchants--stalls where the prices of certain plentiful products are lowered (below the price on the official schedule), in order to promote their purchase by the people, in a healthy spirit of commercial competition.

This is the result of popular action which triggered the constant work carried out by the organizations related to marketing. In many markets the quantities of products that come in are registered daily by the controllers from the executive council and entered into statistical distribution maps.

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CSO: 4728/118

BRIEFS

INCREASED PORTUGUESE CREDIT—The line of credit granted Mozambique for the purchase of Portuguese products was increased from \$100 to \$125 million, the Portuguese ANOP agency informed, citing sources close to the Bank of Portugal. The agreement followed a week of meetings between the Bank of Portugal and a delegation from the Bank of Mozambique which arrived in Portugal on Tuesday. Portugal also granted special credit conditions to finance the export of teaching and technical-scientific books. Mozambican imports of textiles to be processed in Mozambique will also enjoy special credit conditions. The new agreements were signed by the deputy minister and deputy governor of the Bank of Mozambique, Prakash Ratilal and Jacinto Nunes, governor of the Bank of Portugal. [Text] [Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 14 Sep 81 p 8]

CIA ACTIVITIES FICTIONALIZED--For the first time in the history of Mozambican filmmaking, a full-length feature will be produced by the National Film Institute in co-production with Soviet filmmakers. The movie, production of which will start next year at a date to be announced later, will deal with the activities in our country of the CIA, the U.S. spy agency, which were uncovered last March. The production will have both Mozambican and Soviet actors. An agreement in this respect was signed on 9 July of this year between a Mozambican delegation, headed by Minister of Information Jose Luis Cabaco and a Soviet delegation on the occasion of the twelfth Moscow Film Festival. A Soviet team of film technicians will arrive in our country next Friday to gather information on CIA activities here and prepare the project for the film in cooperation with Mozambican technicians. [Text] [Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 19 Sep 81 p 1]

FACIM-ASSISTED TRADE--The FACIM-81 [Maputo Trade Fair] is closing today. The fair was different than any other previously held because it provided a meeting ground for businessmen and more contracts were signed this year than ever before for commercial exchanges between Mozambique and participating countries. Twenty contracts were signed yesterday morning between Mozambican foreign trade enterprises and GDR, Romanian, British, Soviet, French, Swedish and Portuguese companies. Of special relevance among the contracts signed is the one between the ENACOMO and the German NAHRUNG companies, which concerns the export of 2,000 tons of copra to that socialist country. ENACOMO also signed four other contracts, concerning sisal for Romania, cashews and cotton for the GDR and molasses for Great Britain, for a total of \$1.6 million. In the field of imports, contracts were signed with the USSR for the purchase of 209 tractors, with the GDR for the purchase of 100 trucks and with France for the purchase of trucks for various uses, among them a truck able to hoist a ladder to a height of 30 meters. [Text] [Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 13 Sep 81 p 1]

NIGHT COURSES ON IDEOLOGY--Twenty members of the FRELIMO and of the democratic mass organizations completed yesterday in Maputo the first night course on political-ideological training. The closing session was presided over by Maj Gen Jorge Rebelo, Central Committee secretary for ideological work. Participants in the course--which is the first of its kind in the entire country--came from the committee of the city of Maputo, the political commissariat of the FPLM and the secretariates of the mass organizations. In a speech different from those usually given at this type of ceremonies, Maj Gen Jorge Rebelo held a frank dialogue with the students. He was thus able to evaluate more in depth the students' achievements during the 7 months the course lasted. A similar course will be conducted in three other provinces of the country in the near future. [Excerpt] [Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 13 Sep 81 p 1]

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE--Contrary to the news that circulated in the city of Beira recently, the former "Casa Bulha," which will probably reopen in November, will not be like the "MK" store in Maputo. According to our information, the former "Casa Bulha" will be managed by a private international export-import company called "TRADIMEX." Its activities will be devoted to normal commerce and it will trade exclusively in imported goods. A wide variety of articles will be available, excluding foodstuffs. There will probably be cosmetics, clothing, sporting goods and stationery departments. [Text] [Beira NOTICIAS DA BEIRA in Portuguese 19 Aug 81 p 3]

S. AFRICAN AIR VIOLATIONS--On 24 August 1981, two aircraft from the Republic of South Africa violated Mozambique air space in the areas of Mapulanguene and Catuane, in Maputo Province. According to information received by the Mozambique News Agency from the Ministry of Defense, the provinces of Maputo, Gaza and Manica have witnessed the frequent presence of South African aircraft. The agency further said that many of the reconnaissance flights are made by small aircraft which, to all intents and purposes, look like civilian aircraft but are utilized for military purposes. Observers in Maputo interpret these actions by South African aircraft as Pretoria looking at Mozambique territory for infiltration areas for groups trained in South Africa. [Text] [EA282036 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 28 Sep 81]

CSO: 4728/2

DTA POLITICAL ACTIVITY, COMMENTARIES ON APARTHEID

Military Action Followed by Political Offensive

Windhoek REPUBLIKEIN in Afrikaans 25 Aug 81 p 6

[One page reports by Chris Jakobie]

[Text] A large scale political offensive, as a follow-up to the military action, was announced here this past weekend by the president of the DTA (Democratic Turnhalle Alliance) and chairman of the Ovambo Executive Committee, Peter Kalangula, as part of the effort to neutralize completely SWAPO's political and military influence in South-West Africa.

The offensive holds out the prospect of getting every member of the Ovambo population to take action, while tribal authorities and representatives of the various tribes will also be involved in this.

Kalangula stated that members of the Legislative Assembly and of the Ovambo Executive Committee will also be engaged in this new action.

"Those leaders who no longer have the support of their people will have to give up their positions so that it will be possible to appoint representatives who enjoy the support of the population." He referred to recent occurrences in which government representatives failed to attend political meetings. "The meetings were held for the purpose of discussing the country's problems with the inhabitants. I cannot think of anything more important than this for the future of our country."

Kalangula said that representatives are appointed for the purpose of helping the people with problems they themselves cannot resolve. These representatives are expected to look after their people and their peoples' problems.

"The leaders of a nation must realize their responsibilities towards their followers and consequently strive to aim and to work for a peaceful order of things in a responsible manner."

"While the armed forces are engaged in protecting the country by military action we, who are fighting with other means, must strive to make our people happy and give expression to their efforts and see to it that their problems are managed by the right people."

"If such leaders no longer enjoy the support of their people they must give up their position, because the people have the right to be represented by leaders of their choice."

Ovambos Urged to Exhort SWAPO to Peace

[Text] This past weekend the president of the DTA called upon the Ovambos to exhort to peace the SWAPO terrorist whom they encounter.

In addressing a large gathering in Oshakati Mr. Kalangula said that he is sure that the census taking, which is starting this week, will be showing that the war, which has been going on for several years in the region, has caused a reduction of the Ovambo population. "The population has not only undergone a physical reduction, but the census will also be showing a great many other negative factors."

He referred to SWAPO saying that the organization is telling the outside world that they claim to represent the largest single population group in South-West Africa. "SWAPO terrorists who perish are members of the Ovambo population. The Ovambos who die at the hands of SWAPO are also members of this population group and I doubt that the entire Ovambo population is still as large as it is made out to be."

He also called upon the region's inhabitants to do everything in their power to persuade SWAPO terrorists to lay down their arms. Mr. Kalangula said that returning terrorists could make important contributions to the development of the region if they choose to do so.

United Nations Partiality for SWAPO Criticized

[Text] Bartie Botha, a member of the National Assembly, stated that the MPLA government of Angola has no control of criminal elements such as SWAPO which operate in its country. He made the statement this weekend at the Assembly's 227th meeting in Ovamboland.

He was addressing a large audience at Oshakati saying that this weak control on the part of the MPLA is forcing South Africa to take action against these criminal elements.

Botha said that since 1978 the DTA has always strived steadfastly in the effort to make South-West Africa independent.

"We are irrevocably bound to this aim, because this is the wish of more than 80 percent of the population."

Botha said that if independence is important, then justified independence is even more important.

"It is for this reason that the DTA has played up to the international world the injustice of resolution 435 and the United Nations' role of partiality."

"The United Nations partiality towards SWAPO has disqualified it as an arbiter."

With regard to proclamation AG-8 (the legislation which provides for the division of government functions) he said that this must be regarded as one of the greatest breakthroughs in the constitutional order. This provides accommodation not only for the various groups, but for the various races as well.

The realization that there is a political role to be played in order to bring about peace is present and alive in the DTA and the DTA has, to a great extent, succeeded in playing out its role in this process.

Apartheid Still Present in Ovamboland

[Text] There are no noticeable signs in Ovamboland that the legislation for doing away with racial discrimination has been accepted by the National Assembly. This is the statement made this past weekend in Oshakati by Gregor Tibinyane, a member of the Ministerial Council.

Tibinyane was addressing a DTA meeting and went on to say that the fact that there are no noticeable changes in dispositions is throwing suspicion on the honest efforts of the DTA in promoting human relations.

"Everywhere else in South-West Africa one can see that changes have been made after the legislation on abolition of racial discrimination was adopted, but in Ovamboland there are no signs that this legislation has been implemented. How can we expect the people to believe us? In Ovamboland there is still the feeling that apartheid is being applied, that the black man there is inferior and the white man a superior being. The apartheid being applied here is worse than that applied in Pretoria."

On the other hand Tibinyane went on to say that it is time that the black people abandon the inferiority complex afflicting them.

"Those white people who think that they go back to South Africa, before or after an election, in order to get away from changes, are making a mistake. The wheel of change is turning in South Africa also and people there are looking at irritating measures every day.

He said that South Africa's prime minister is realizing that there will have to be changes made, so why is it that people here do not wish to realize this? The people of South-West Africa are longing for a future in which color will play no role. It is for this reason that they are calling on the people of Ovamboland (blacks and whites) to do everything in their power to improve human relations in these regions.

In referring to SWAPO he said that this organization must be defeated politically and militarily.

"This can be done only if SWAPO can be defeated effectively in an election."

He called upon SWAPO to stop murdering people under the pretext that it is fighting for the independence of South-West Africa. "South-West Africa is irrevocably on the road to its independence and has committed itself to that.

He said that SWAPO has no need to turn to force of arms. "If it wants to fight, that organization must turn to South Africa. These two sides are trained for that, but the people of South-West Africa are seeking peace and independence."

According to what SWAPO says it wants to expel the South African government from here.

"The DTA does not want to drive the South African government here, but what it wants is that it be possible for South Africa to withdraw from South-West Africa. This can be possible only if SWAPO stops shooting. If the organization refuses to do so then South Africa must continue on with the destruction of SWAPO.

Apartheid Must Be Removed Completely

[Text] This past weekend Peter Kalangula, president of the DTA and chairman of the Ovambo Executive Committee, speaking before a record audience in Oshakati, stated that the people of South-West Africa, which includes Ovamboland's population, have the right to demand that every aspect of apartheid should be abolished.

According to Bertie Botha, a member of the National Assembly, the meeting turned out to be the best attended DTA assembly ever held in Oshakati.

"This was the greatest number of people ever attending a DTA assembly in Oshakati." So stated Mr. Botha who addressed its 228th assembly in Ovamboland.

With respect to the abolishment of discrimination in Ovamboland, Kalangula said that South-West Africa had obtained the right of getting rid of apartheid through the South African decision to the effect that the people of the South-West must decide their own future.

"This decision also meant that South Africa should not interfere in the domestic affairs of the region and therefore it can be expected that South Africa will not permit its officials to interfere in the decision making process of South-West Africa. Therefore it is also logical that these officials will lend support to the present policy which is aimed against apartheid."

He said that the Ovambo government's demand that no apartheid be applied in the region does not mean that the Ovambos are against the whites in Ovamboland.

"Although we would like to have the whites in the region and grant them a place there along with ours, we shall do everything in our power to get rid of the advocates of apartheid in our midst."

Kalangula referred to threats to the effect that development in Ovamboland would come to a standstill if these officials left the country.

"I would rather see development come to a standstill than those things which render my people unhappy. As far as I am concerned Ovambo development can stop as long as my people can be content."

Kalangula said that he is irrevocably committed to improving human relations in Ovamboland.

The problems which the war ravaged Ovambos are now experiencing are the fruits of apartheid and therefore this must be abolished for the sake of my people and for the sake of peace."

SOVIET OFFICER'S CAPTURE IS DESCRIBED

Windhoek THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER in English 21 Sep 81 pp 4-5

[Article by David Pieters: "How Nikolai Feodorovich Pestretsov Was Captured"]

[Text]

IT WAS LATE afternoon on August 24, approaching dusk, on a road leading north-east out of Ongiva, previously known as Pereira D'Eca, about 100 kms into central southern Angola.

An Angolan military convoy of about 25 vehicles including tanks was moving away from the battle at Ongiva, being a part of the town's military force which deserted the town after it had come under attack by SA and SWA Security Forces at mid-morning on the same day.

As a SA Security Force contact patrol approached the convoy in an attempt to communicate, the convoy started an enveloping movement in an effort to outflank the small patrol on two sides.

This move was detected by a larger group of Security Forces stationed further up the road-part of a cut-off force deployed in the area precisely in the eventuality of such an attempted getaway out of Ongiva.

It moved in to the rescue of the smaller group in danger of encirclement and a skirmish took place which lasted until nightfall.

Both sides laid low for the night and the next morning, it was found that most of the Angolan convoy had escaped under cover of darkness, leaving behind them about five destroyed vehicles.

Amongst the dead were four Russian officers, all in Angolan uniform — two of them lieutenant colonels, as well as two Swapo officers, and Fapla commanders.

The Russian Warrant Officer Nikolai Feodorovich Pestretsov had been captured the previous evening, and amongst the dead was his wife Galina Michaelovna.

The details of this event which took place during Operation Protea were released by the SA Army Chief Lieutenant General Jan-nie Geldenhuys at Oshakati last week.

Warrant officer Pestretsov is a specialist in repairing motor vehicles in the Soviet Army. His salary in the Soviet Union had been 300 rubles, and in Angola 432 rubles per month, according to Security Force information.

One wonders how the 39-year-old officer met the news of his wife's death the following morning as the darkness cleared, himself a prisoner of the war then, and his deceased partner whom he married in 1969, fatally wounded next to the forsaken Angolan roadside.

Was he permitted to pay his final respects, one contemplates? Was there even some sort of informal military funeral under guard? Or did his deceased wife follow him in a SA armoured vehicle turned into a hearse?

SWA military sources have not released all the names of the captured Soviet soldiers, but a few more of the names of the deceased from that roadside skirmish were released.

They include Commandant Yevgenii Victorovich Kireev and his wife, the Commandant having been chief artillery adviser.

Also listed as amongst the dead on the road south of Anhanca leading from Ongiva are Commandant Joseph Lamonovich (surname unknown), only a month in Angola, and having been an adviser to the MPLA Political Commissar at Ongiva.

No other names of the dead Russian soldiers are listed as such, and neither of those taken prisoner.

A few names of those that escaped from Ongiva are listed in the document specially prepared for the press by Sector 10 based at Oshakati in Owambo.

They are Commandant Feodor Antonovich Zhubrzhitsky, adviser to Forces in Angola, Major Yuri Ivanovich Yegorov, adviser to the armed forces in Angola who escaped with his wife, Major Alexei Khudoyerka, military adviser to Fapla who escaped with his wife, and Major Vladimir Feodorovich Setenko, artillery adviser who also escaped with his wife Natalia from Ongiva.

The Sector 10 document does not specify if these people were amongst the group that later formed part of the convoy which ran into the Security cut-off Force.

There are listed another 13 names not given as killed, captured or escaped. It makes formidable reading and tingles with the ominous idea of what possibly lies in store somewhere in the future.

- V I Zaryanov (no rank given), a senior of the group of Russian military advisers and probably their chief, according to the Security Force Intelligence.

- Major Anatoli Josephovich Poznakhirko, adviser to Fapla, unmarried. Letter of promotion to rank of major on March 15 this year found in notebook captured at Ongiva, and signed by the Chief Military Adviser in the People's Republic of Angola. Lieutenant General G Petrovsky and deputy Chief

Military Adviser in the Political Section Major General (Air Force) F Kir-sanov.

- Artillery specialist Yevgenii Petrovich Kutepov who arrived in Angola last year at the age of 41 and a member of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union since 1962, four years after joining the Soviet Army.

- Captain Nikolai Vasilevich Krasivsky and wife Vera Vladimirovna Krasivskaya who both arrived in Angola in May this year. He is an artillery adviser.

- Leokadia Vikentevna Korsak who arrived in Angola in March this year. No other details.

- Vyacheslav Vasilevich Korsak, senior lieutenant in the Soviet Army and at one stage adviser to the Chief of the Political Department.

- Andrei Andreievich Mezbul and wife Ludmila Konstantinovna who is a dental technician. He is a mechanic. Documents found at Xangongo (Rochades).

- Vladimir Pavlovich Demidenko, profession unknown but a member of the Trade Union of Soviet Military Advisers. Documents found at Xangongo.

- A A Gurov (no rank), a Senior Russian Military Adviser.

- S A Anoshin (no rank, a Senior Russian Military Adviser).

- A N Cherednik (no rank) Adviser to the Commander of the Artillery Battalion.

- A I Tulov (no rank given), a member of the Trade Union of Russian Military Advisers and whose annual report was found at Xangongo.

- Valentin Mikhaelovich Timbarshev, member of the CPSU since 1976 and married to Svetlana Stepanova.

EVENTS ON AUGUST 24

General Geldenhuys recalled the events on August 24, D-Day for Operation Protea and the day of the battle for Ongiva.

The Security Forces had warned the population of Ongiva of its intention to attack 48 hours hence, and instructed that civilians should move out of town in a south-westerly direction, as should Fapla and other forces if they did not want to become involved in the battle against Swapo.

When the Security Forces attacked Ongiva, the combined Swapo, Fapla and Russian group broke through the attacker's lines to the north-east, choosing not to follow the south-western corridor that they had been told to take 48 hours prior to the attack.

General Geldenhuys said that from interviews after the battle of Ongiva, it emerged that the civilians had been assured that Ongiva would not fall, since it was protected by long range artillery and tank forces.

When the Angolan convoy was subsequently detected on the north-eastern road by the Security cut-off force, a patrol was sent out to try to communicate surrender terms but instead the convoy started an encircling movement thereby pre-empting the Security Force's fullscale attack.

According to General Geldenhuys the Angolan military group was not large and had a low level command structure.

After the roadside skirmish, further elements of the Security Force regimental group were detached and sent to join the forces deployed in the eastern operational area to assist with mopping-up operations against Swapo bases there.

"In the east we were not as successful as hoped, mainly because Swapo managed to evacuate most of its bases before the troops got there," he added.

INTENT ON GETTING AWAY

"Whereas the Angolan forces fought to maintain their positions in the east we found

that Swapo was more intent in getting away than putting up a standing fight."

From Ongiva and Lubango to the south, the one Security Force regimental group had considerable success in mopping-up Swapo structures and supplies, said the General.

This group, which was the largest group in the whole operation, entered SWA and gathered at Oshivelo in southern Owambo and had their farewell address on Friday September 3.

General Geldenhuys went on to say that the other regimental group still in eastern Angola also had started to withdraw but encountered considerable problems.

This group was not as highly mechanised as the one deployed in the west, consisting mainly of infantry troops engaged in search and destroy-type operations.

"By this time their vehicles had also suffered a severe hammering, resulting in breakdowns and a number of mine incidents occurred.

"One battle group alone detonated six mines and all the vehicles had to be brought out".

The density of mines in that area was so high, according to the General, that around one Swapo bases more than 40 mines were lifted and around

another base 96 anti-tank mines were disposed of by sappers.

NO CUBANS

In reply to questions, General Geldenhuys said that no Cubans were encountered during combat in Operation Protea.

There was evidence to suggest, however, that certain White soldiers sometimes accompanied Swapo on patrols. These might be East German, or Russians, but he added that there was no factual evidence to confirm these suspicions.

Replying to a question asking the General to reconcile the fact that Unita was said to be strongly entrenched in southern Angola especially in the east, while during Operation Protea it had emerged that Swapo was also apparently persistent in maintaining footholds in the region, General Geldenhuys said that it was a "confusing situation."

It was wellknown, said the General, that Angolan Government forces and Swapo and Unita all operated in the same area. In many cases Swapo forces operated in conjunction with Fapla against Unita.

He pointed out that the Unita member who had been freed from the prison at Ongiva by the Security Forces after other political prisoners had been summarily executed

in their cells at the orders of the Fapla command, had said that he was captured five months ago by Swapo and handed over to the Angolan Government forces.

The situation remains confusing, and has become more complicated after Protea.

Some military observers in Windhoek are of the correct opinion that SA and the SWATF could never hope to occupy Angola in its entirety simply because the country is so vast and would spread the Security Forces too thinly.

This leaves the Security Forces the only option of hitting occasionally at Swapo's logistics and strategic points of concentration which even a guerrilla army must have.

Protea has shown that such action is increasingly involving the logistics systems of the Angolan Government forces, which in turn is supplemented by Soviet and other East bloc, as well as Cuban elements.

The consequences of this course can only lead in the end to the Angolan forces and their allies striking at the nerve centres of the Security Forces here in SWA.

And that will transform the civil war which the struggle for national liberation has become since the introduction of compulsory military conscription, into a fullscale conventional war between nations, with almost imminent superpower intervention.

PRETORIA MATCHES WASHINGTON IN CUNNING, IS CLAIM

Windhoek THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER in English 16 Sep 81 pp 1, 3

[Editorial]

[Text]

One has to give it to the Reagan Administration: they are realists.

Even in their relations with SA.

What is particularly interesting is the overall strategy that is beginning to emerge.

It is simply this: We will make an offer that you cannot refuse.

The carrot? The US will be your friend, buy your products and welcome you and your sports teams into the warmth of our community of allies.

The price? Move away from apartheid and help to resolve the Namibian problem.

The Reagan Administration's credibility as a partner? Partly expressed in the stand it took in the UN Security Council last week and the favourable SA line it has adopted in the White SA Black Africa interface.

Pretty crafty, all in all, and a welcome movement away from the Carter Administration's threatening tactics.

What the Reagan Administration probably underestimates however is that it will meet its match in cunning in Pretoria.

No White nationalist government in SA is likely to sell its soul, even at an attractive price.

Besides, no offer will ever be that good that the Afrikaner will be prepared to sacrifice control over his destiny (which in effect is what the Americans are asking).

The SA Government is wary of US Government promises: it remembers the collapse of Henry Kissinger's promises to Ian Smith in Pretoria in November 1976, realising furthermore that the Reagan Administration will

not be in office for ever.

And last, but not least, SA is not bargaining from a position of weakness; that John Vorster let Walter Mondale know in Vienna in 1977 when Mondale attempted sledgehammer tactics.

Vorster told Mondale exactly where to get off.

SA for its part will act the role of a dove (but actually a hawk dressed up as a dove) and exploit the new situation to the full.

Privately, Pretoria will probably say to Washington: We accept your offer and Pretoria will cash in on the goods.

In actuality, however, Pretoria will move slightly away from apartheid and probably won't move at all on Namibia.

But (and this is important), it will most definitely give Washington the impression that it is meeting its commitments.

PLIGHT OF ANGOLAN REFUGEES DESCRIBED

Windhoek THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER in English 16 Sep 81 p 3

[Article by David Pieters]

[Text]

THE REJECTION of existing conditions in southern Angola where war, economic stagnation, drought and food queues are creating a climate of growing discontent, is popular amongst the local population.

This was the opinion of one of a group of refugees presently cared for by the local authorities in Oshakati.

Most of the refugees spoken to did not want to be identified, some of them for fear of reprisals against family or relations still in Angola.

One, a machine operator from Ongiva, said that the supply of electricity in the town was limited to the local chiefs and political leaders.

He described life as "bad" in southern Angola, food queues as the order of the day, and blamed the upheaval in that part of the country on Swapo's presence in the area, and the Angolan Government's policies.

He had left behind in Xangongo members of his family besides his wife and two children who came with him.

There were 70 refugees in his group, the machinist said, forming part of a larger group and about 100 which had

gathered on the road southbound from Ongiva en route to the SWA border about two weeks ago.

He had been in Ongiva at the time of attack, presumably with his wife and children, on August 24 - D-Day of Operation Protea.

Having taken note of the pamphlets dropped by the Security Forces prior to the assault on the town, his was amongst those families who had already sought shelter in the bush.

During his press conference at Oshakati on the same day earlier this week, General Jan-nie Geldenhuys, Chief of the SA Army, told newsmen that a large number of Ongiva's civilian population had not heeded the attackers' warning to clear out of the battle area.

According to information after the taking in Ongiva, the Security Forces learnt that the Russian advisers and the Fapla garrison had convinced the civilians that it was safe to stay because Ongiva could not be taken.

Another of the refugees interviewed was an ex-farmer who had property near Xangongo (Rochades). He had left Angola with only his personal belongings. His two children and a granddaughter were still in Angola, and he

said he intended to try to get them out of the country, but would never go back himself unless there was a "drastic change" in the situation there.

SUPPORT

According to him, Unita had considerable support in the area from which he had come.

He did not see much chance of an improvement in the situation as long as Swapo continued the war from Angola.

When asked, he said that he had not seen any of the pamphlets dropped by the Security Forces as a warning before the attack.

On a video film made by the Security Forces in action around Xangongo and Ongiva, was shown the distribution of food seized from the Angolan garrison, by the Security Forces amongst the local inhabitants who queued holding containers.

SEVERE HUNGER

It was said by one SA officer that in some cases people had scooped the raw meal and flour and started eating, apparently from severe hunger.

Civilian casualties in Operation Protea had been slight, according to General Geldenhuys.

Two days before the attack on Ongiva, which it seems, was the first flashpoint in the whole operation, SA aircraft had dropped pamphlets requesting the local population to vacate the town, and calling upon Fapla forces not to intervene.

During his international press conference at Oshakati this week, General Geldenhuys said the SA and SWA forces had acted under two sets of orders, transmitted from the field commanders down to lowest ranks.

These had been to avoid contact with Fapla, Angolan civil servants and civilians as far as possible, and if necessary, to ensure the safety of every Security force member even if that meant clashing with Fapla, he said.

This had proved to be the necessary course of action once Fapla troops intervened attacking the Security Forces as they approached Ongiva, from defensive trenches spanning the approaches to the town.

LIMBO VIEWS MINISTERS' COUNCIL POWERS FAVORABLY

Windhoek THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER in English 18 Sep 81 p 8

[Text]

THE INCREASED powers that have been granted to the Ministers' Council should do much to bolster public confidence in the DTA.

So said a leading member of the Ministers' Council, Mr Patrick Limbo, in an interview with the Advertiser.

Mr Limbo said that the granting of the powers to the Ministers' Council is long overdue and as such has caused considerable frustration in the country.

"The people will now see that we mean to move ahead and do things", he said.

Mr Limbo said that it was up to the Chairman of the Ministers' Council, Mr Dirk Mudge, to decide whether Ministers should be granted portfolios or not. To date no portfolios have been granted.

Asked whether he favoured the inclusion of members of other parties in the Ministers' Council, Mr Limbo said that he did not.

"There are two reasons", he pointed out. "Many of the matters discussed at Ministers' Council level are strictly party matters and a certain confidentiality is required. The other reason is that it would be difficult for a minority

member to be totally loyal to the Council and to defend DTA policy when his party criticises the Council."

When it was put to Mr Limbo that there was speculation that NP member Mr Jannie de Wet may be included, he replied: "I have nothing against Mr de Wet. He is a very able person. But I still believe it would be wrong to include an outsider."

ANGOLA

Asked whether he approved of the SADF's "Operation Protea" into Angola, Mr Limbo remarked: "Naturally, I approve. The complaints put up by Angola are utter nonsense. If I keep a convict in my home and my home is hit, I must blame myself. Angola received what it deserved."

"Swapo also has to accept the punishment it received. It has told the world that it will kill anybody that stands in its way and it kills mercilessly. It must expect trouble. Swapo thinks nothing of blindly mortaring the people of this country. That we found out in Katima a few years ago. In fact it was the mortaring of Katima that made the Caprivians realise once and for all that Swapo was not for them. They realised that Swapo was

aiming its mortars at all the people in Namibia, not just the SADF."

THE UN

Mr Limbo said that the DTA still wanted an international settlement as soon as possible, but on terms that are in the interests of all the people in SWA.

"We agreed to UN Resolution 435 in 1978, but then Dr Waldheim threw the whole settlement process off course by coming up with new proposals that were unacceptable to us. That upset our confidence in the UN and now it is very difficult to accept the UN as an honest broker. The situation was made worse last week when the General Assembly refused to allow SA and Dr Ben Africa to address it."

"Personally, I don't think that Swapo will participate in an election if the UN wins our confidence", Mr Limbo said.

"Swapo is not interested in an election unless the UN can win the election for it. It is just bluffing the world. Swapo has often said that it is not interested in an election. It has also said that it is not prepared to share power; it wants 100 percent power or nothing at all."

Mr Limbo said that he didn't want to pre-empt the outcome of the US proposals, "because the stage is very delicate at present".

"At Geneva we told the UN and the Western five our standpoint, throwing the ball into their court, and now they must come back to us and tell us how they wish to act."

CSO: 4700/16

EDITOR ASSESSES HANDOVER OF POWERS TO AG

Windhoek THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER in English 18 Sep 81 p 24

[Editorial by Leon Kok in column "From the Editor's Desk": "Counting the Odds"]

[Text]

THE executive powers of the Central Government were handed over this week by the AG Mr Danie Hough to the Ministers' Council.

So what, you might say.

And how right you might be. At the surface it turned out to be the greatest political and constitutional anti-climax this country has ever known. The man in the street didn't seem to care a hoot.

Ironically, however, the significance is a great one. It is the realisation of self-rule and is the near-ultimate of a constitutional pattern that goes back seven years. The handing over of executive powers is indeed only a step or two short of real political independence.

There were no trumpets to herald the occasion, no ceremony and the media hardly bothered to cover the matter.

That the public at large are not excited about the new dispensation is the result of a number of causes. One is that the step is just another of tens of pieces that have been cut from the colonial roll. Salami politics, as some would describe it. Self rule and independence have had to come

bit by bit, monotonously, and people have become tired of the process.

Another reason is that the symbolism of self-rule has been extremely dampened. This has been manifested in the in-fighting that has taken place over SWA House, the Tintenpalast and the Windhoek Teachers Training College. The question for example is still being asked: How can the Ministers' Council administer SWA if it doesn't occupy the Tintenpalast? A ridiculous question to the sophisticated, not so ridiculous to the unsophisticated.

And then there are the feelings of disappointment, that expectations have not been met. Three years ago, for example, the DTA was seen to be aiming for the sun; to date it is seen not to have even reached the moon. Consequently, most that emerges from government now is treated with a pinch of salt.

The Ministers' Council has often attributed the depressed state of affairs to the intransigence of Swapo, the Frontline states and the UN and to the sabotage of DTA policy within the country to officialdom.

The former argument has merit; the latter is perhaps

questionable.

The reason that the DTA chose to assume executive powers in SWA is not relevant to this argument, but the question arises: Can the Ministers' Council use those powers profitably while SA buys time for the DTA? Can the Ministers' Council accelerate progress in the country such that the nation will at last feel that it is nearing the moon? Can the powers help to give the DTA an edge against Swapo in a UN-supervised election?

I doubt it, in the short to medium term, anyway.

There are a number of reasons:

- The Executive under the Ministers' Council will be much the same as it was under the AG. It did pretty much what the Ministers' Council and the National Assembly requested. To place the entire blame for the country's shortcomings on a handful of officials is surely taking things too far. Indeed, it smells strongly of seeking scapegoats.

Besides, I personally asked Mr Hough at a press conference three months ago whether he was aware of his officials sabotaging DTA policy, and not only did he

refute the statement, he took exception to my question. He seemed quite oblivious that the question was based on information from the Chairman of the Ministers' Council, Mr Dirk Mudge. Mr Hough's reply was run prominently in this newspaper and others and to my knowledge he has never been openly challenged by the Ministers' Council. The most that has emerged has been the departure of a few officials from Owambo.

- The present leadership of the DTA is just not charismatic enough to catch the imagination of the nation at large and for the public to be madly enthusiastic about constitutional and political developments.

This is accentuated by the DTA's limited rapport with the country at large. True, Mr Mudge has said the DTA cannot fight an election on a permanent basis, but then one must expect negative results.

- The economy in SWA is in too depressed a state at present for the DTA to imaginatively exploit it. Indeed, it is only natural that the people feeling the pinch at most and being unemployed at worst will be unenchanted with the government of the day. If anything, the government of the day will be primarily blamed for the present state of affairs, even though it cannot put an end to the drought or turn the tide of mineral prices on the world market.

Besides, it is no easy task at the best of times in the Third World to narrow the gap between the haves and have-nots, the Ministers' Council having to take its unfair share of the blame.

- The apparent temporary nature of the interim government has a most concerted blunting effect on the DTA's thrust. It is difficult for the DTA to plan and promise long term knowing full well that in the near future it might be pitted in an internationally-supervised election against Swapo. This indeed clouds the future.

- Coupled with the previous point is that the people of SWA in their understandable cynical frame of mind have become unresponsive to the promises of politicians. They have heard too much and received little in the decades gone past.

- The DTA is a victim of its own constitution, namely AG 8. The Ministers' Council cannot be seen to be doing much because of the tremendous deconcentration of power. Much of the credit that the DTA might otherwise have been able to take for itself goes to second-tier authorities, some of which are vehemently opposed to constituent parties of the DTA. The White, Damara and Baster authorities are good examples.

- The DTA is furthermore hamstrung by the geographical spread of the country. People are thinly spread, mostly illiterate, poorly informed of what happens in Windhoek and as such the Turnhalle is quite remote to them. Moreover, politics in SWA is strongly regional. As my colleague, Jean Fischer put it: "SWA at present is like a thingy-iced cake and nobody feels that they are getting a fair slice."

- Many feel that self-rule will remain impossible while SA remains in the wings. Unisa political science lecturer Andre Du Pisani remarked: "It remains all too clear that SA is still pulling the important levers."

Moreover, for varying reasons, Black DTA leaders have felt strongly inhibited from disassociating themselves from the SA Government and its racial policies which has put them at a great disadvantage in the electoral stakes. Put another way, by remaining tied to the colonial power, they are having great difficulty showing their supporters that they are part of the decolonisation process. One could even say that the DTA is on the wrong side of the decolonisation fence.

- Decolonisation institutions have been created in SWA but many have not become institutionalised or legitimised. The National Assembly and the Ministers' Council are perhaps the best examples. They may well be the prime law-making bodies in the country, but often they are not taken seriously. Contempt is shown particularly by the second-tier White, Baster and Damara authorities.

- And finally many people see the present constitutional and political dispensation as a Mark II version of the Odendaal Plan. In other words, the present dispensation is seen as being no more than just a human face of the old politics.

Now, were we to make the assumption that all the aforementioned points were to fall away, I still fear that the odds may be against the DTA because of the lack of understanding by the SA Government and the Whites in general in SWA of the nature of Black nationalism.

The DTA is faced with two options: of declaring a Transkei-type independence or settling for UN Security Council Resolution 435 (the settlement process).

Accepting that the UN plan is out of the question (and I think it will be), I find it hard to believe that the Blacks in SWA will favour a Transkei-type dispensation. Even Ministers' Council member Mr Patrick Limbo was non-committal last week when I asked him how he felt about it. His response did not surprise me.

The reason is that self-rule alone is not enough for the Blacks. They want to be totally engaged in universal humanist movements such as the OAU, UN and Frontline states. Self-rule by itself constitutes continued isolation.

What matters primarily to the Blacks is the consciousness of being, the will to be recognised, to participate in world growth, to be accepted as equals and to strive for justice in all nations.

Another stumbling block the DTA could hit on is the ideological strengthening of it by White interests. Put more precisely, the streamlining of the DTA on capitalist lines (whatever the merits) could prove to be extremely disconcerting to the Blacks.

Black nationalism, which the DTA has to accommodate if it is to be electorally successful against Swapo, is generally allergic to capitalism in the first instance and it is anti-ideological in the second instance.

The allergy is largely the result of the identification of free enterprise with colonialism; the belief that free enterprise was imposed on SWA by the colonialists. This is accentuated by the consciousness of Black solidarity in poverty, the inadequacy of public services and the presence of underdevelopment. This is a major reason that Blacks generally prefer socialist systems and look towards socialist experiments.

Significantly, many Blacks don't want to be ideological in East-West terms and it is even wrong to regard Swapo as marxist, because it is not. Being called marxist and receiving aid from the Eastern bloc does not necessarily add up to actually being ideologically marxist.

As one prominent Black intellectual told me: "What is the use of creating a new nation in Namibia, only to remain enslaved to one or another established ideology; to renounce, upon liberation, the right to liberty."

Another prominent Black put it this way: "We want to throw off competing ideologies, old paternalism and set up our own order. That for us is reaching a new world, a new humanity, realising ourselves according to a new pattern."

Perhaps it could be said that Black nationalism is nothing but a sociological manifestation of the collective feeling of revolt against the presence, ideological as well as material, of the "foreigner" (which could even mean a third generation indigenous White).

That being the case, the once mighty DTA could be heading for a serious setback yet. I hope it is not the case, but we certainly cannot afford to be blind to the realities.

As a rational White, with strong intellectual inclinations, I can think of no better solution to SWA's long term progress and growth than the DTA's plural approach.

But, as I said, I am White and there may be many, many Blacks who disagree with me, and worse still, disagree with the DTA.

NAMIBIA

BRIEFS

REFUGEES NUMBER 800--Windhoek--Refugees from Angola were still filing into Owambo in northern SWA following the recent military operations in southern Angola, the Secretary to the Owambo Government, Mr Callie Reynecke, said at Oshakati yesterday. A senior headman and all the members of his village (kraal) were making their way from Angola to a centre for refugees in Owambo, Mr Reynecke said. The estimated number of refugees had risen to more than 800 since the arrival of the first groups earlier this month. Mr Reynecke said the Owambo Government was preparing identity documents for the Angolans. [Text] [Windhoek THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER in English 18 Sep 81 p 3]

CSO: 4700/16

COMMENTARY SUGGESTS MORE PRUDENT ECONOMIC PLANNING

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 1 Sep 81 p 1

[Text]

ANYONE familiar with the current, rather adverse development in the world oil market, will not be surprised by our government's offer of a \$4 discount per barrel of our oil.

Ever since Saudi Arabia decided to saturate the market as a result of their over-supply policy the demand for our so-called sweet crude has kept going down steadily. In fact, as a result of Saudi's over production strategy and the West's stock-piling of oil, the demand for OPEC oil in general has in recent months gone down extremely considerably—hence the oil glut.

That we have held out this far before effecting this reduction shows the remarkable fortitude of our leaders and indicates the respect with which we hold OPEC as a collective institution of oil price determination.

While less populous oil producing countries like Algeria and Libya can afford to hold on a bit longer, we can hardly do the same. This is because being small their demand for liquid cash is not as intensive as ours. Furthermore, our huge development plan has been based on projections of income calculated to accrue from the sale of oil.

The lessons we

should learn from the oil glut is obvious. First we must hasten to diversify the basis of our economy away from its present monocultural nature. Secondly but more importantly we must put a stop to our habit of drawing up over-ambitious development plans. By so doing we raise expectations unnecessarily only to discover that we can hardly fulfil them.

There is no inherent contradiction between the first and the second lessons. So long as we manage our resources in a prudent manner, we can hurry up and at the same time not spend unnecessarily big.

NIGERIA

OIL GLUT SAID COSTING COUNTRY 6 BILLION DOLLARS

Paris AFRICA AFP in English No 2827, 11 Sep 81 p 6

[Text]

LAGOS, September 9 - The extent of the damage done to Nigeria's economy by the world oil glut was indicated here today by financial sources who said that oil production was down to a third of January's level at 708,000 barrels a day in August.

The figure for August was about 100,000 barrels a day down on July's figure, and exports in August were only about 500,000 barrels - or a quarter of last year's average level.

The loss in state revenue, which was about 1,000 million dollars a month in the last three months, totalled some 6,000 million dollars for the first nine months, according to unofficial calculations.

On an annual basis, this represents almost a third of the 1981 budget set at 21,400 million dollars.

However, it is generally expected that Nigeria's decision on August 26 to lower its oil price by about four dollars a barrel or ten per cent to 36 dollars should help to push up output in coming months.

Oil sources suggest that output could at best climb back to about 1.5 million barrels a day in the first quarter of 1982.

The statement by Saudi Arabia's Oil Minister Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani that Nigeria's price could soon fall to 31 or 32 dollars has provoked no official comment here.

But informed sources expressed surprise, commenting that nothing suggests another price cut for the time being. (A.F.P.)

CSO: 4700/19

STATISTICS ON STATE RECEIPTS LISTED

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 1 Sep 81 p 1

[Text]

THE Ministry of Finance has described as tendentious and irresponsible the publication carried on the back page of the Daily Star of August 25, 1981, credited to Mr. E.C.N. Okeke, a member of the Anambra State Assembly.

The publication which stated that only six million Naira out of the statutory allocation of 250 million Naira due to Anambra State had so far been released to the state by the Federal Government was described by the ministry as a political gerrymandering designed to incite the state against the Federal Government.

To this effect, and for the benefit of the general public, the Ministry of Finance had released the facts in a press statement which shows that between January and July, a total of 122.173 million Naira was released to the Anambra State Government as its share of the Federation Account in accordance with the provision of the Revenue Allocation Act of 1981.

Also, during the same period 168.275 million Naira was released to the state for the benefit of local governments.

The ministry further denied the allegation that the president submitted the 1982 budget to the National Assembly.

The following is the Federation Account as it affects the 19 states of the federation and local governments from January to July 31, 1981:—

NAME	STATE GOVERNMENT	LOCAL GOVERNMENT	TOTAL
Anambra	N122,172,115.36	N46,102,258.83	N68274,374.19
Bauchi	N114,704,339.58	N43,322,856.79	N158,027,196.37
Bendel	N108,249,959.26	N40,848,36.06	N149,098,395.32
Benue	N109,967,722.61	N41,463,691.81	N151,431,414.42
Borno	N136,97,862.25	N51429,539.28	N181,227,40158
C.R.	N122,759,945.34	N45,814,171.32	N168574,116.66
Gongola	N124,386,828.32	N46,925,313.61	N171,312,141.93
Imo	N122,081,910.77	N46,058,15.39	N168,140,106.16
Kaduna	N143,417,398.92	N3,930,610.36	N179,348,009.28
Kano	N143,848,840.97	N61,829,513.70	N205,678,354.67
Kwara	N103,820,179.35	N39,177,376.47	N142,997,555.82
Lagos	N83,795,558.08	N31,622,320.29	N115,417,878.37
Niger	N94,920,527.51	N35,834,157.53	N130,754,685.04
Ogun	N88,767,811.65	N33,494,310.56	N122,262,122.1
Ondo	N109,033,242.18	N41,011,013.75	N150,04,255.93
Oyo	N153,501,906.11	N56,972,152.40	N10,474,058.51
Plateau	N106,622,722.25	N40,235,343.8	N146,858,066.08
Rivers	N92,836,019.77	N35,032,166.26	N127,868,186.03
Sokoto	N158,167,127.17	N59,796,327.85	N217,963,855.03

CSO: 4700/19

PREPARATIONS LISTED FOR RUSSIANS TO RUN AJAOKUTA STEEL

Kaduna SUNDAY NEW NIGERIAN in English 13 Sep 81 pp 1, 16

[Text]

THE Minister of Steel Development, Malam Mamman Ali Makele, has dismissed recent contentions by Chief Obafemi Awolowo, that the country's economy would not be able to sustain the steel industry.

Speaking in an interview with the New Nigerian in Kaduna on Friday, Malam Makele said that Nigeria would even raise foreign loans to complete its steel projects if it became necessary.

But, according to the Minister, this would happen only when our economy failed to finance the projects.

He said that Nigeria would not have any problems raising the loans if this happened, because the steel industry "is a very viable venture."

He said that Alhaji Shehu Shagari's administration was irrevocably committed to the development of steel in the country, as this would form the basis for our industrialisation.

He declared: "Those who say that oil glut could interfere with the execution of the steel programme should be reminded that only a few years ago oil was selling at only six dollars per barrel but today it sells at about 35 dollars. And yet we were able to implement a lot of ambitions then. Why not now?"

Already most of the steel mills are nearing completion, he said, adding that we could look forward to manufacturing soon.

Another factor that the Minister said makes for optimism is that all the steel projects put together will cost us less than five billion Naira and will be executed over a period of between eight and nine years. Therefore, he contended, "our economy is buoyant enough to sustain the steel complex at Ajaokuta, as well as the mills at Warri, Jos, Oshogbo and Katsina."

On the sustenance of the steel industries after completion, Malam Ali Makele said that the Russians would run the Ajaokuta steel complex for two years before handing it over to adequately trained Nigerians.

After the handing over, special courses would be organised for the Nigerians within and outside the country, to keep them abreast of modern techniques.

Only dedicated Nigerians, he said, would be appointed to top posts in the steel plants, in order to realise the profit envisaged from the projects.

He announced that work had begun on the construction of the bridge that would carry the railway line to link Ajaokuta with the rest of the federation, through Oturkpo.

The minister also disclosed that

work has reached an advanced stage on the river port at Ajaokuta while the airport in the town has been completed.

On accommodation, the minister announced that altogether 300 blocks of three-bedroom flats have been completed at Ajaokuta and would accommodate 800 Russian experts. By February next year 1,000 blocks are expected to have been completed.

He further stated that contract for 6,500 additional flats at Ajaokuta has been awarded and that construction work would be completed by the end of 1982 when 6,000 Russian experts are expected to arrive in Nigeria to commence work on the integrated steel complex.

What would be completed by 1983 at Ajaokuta is the rolling mill and not the steel plant proper, otherwise known as the integrated steel complex, he said. Work on the integrated steel complex would start in 1983.

Commenting on the search for coking coal in the country, Malam Makele said that the 15 Russian experts expected in the country soon would look into the possibilities of extracting coking coal at Lafia in Plateau State.

He said that if they were unable to utilize the coal at Lafia, steps would be taken to import coking coal from abroad to be blended with the Enugu coal.

PRESIDENT APPROVES FOUR MORE STEEL MILLS

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 12 Sep 81 p 16

[Article by Owen Anikwue]

[Text]

PRESIDENT Shehu Shagari has approved the establishment of 4 additional steel rolling mills in the country for the production of aluminium, alloy, galvanised and flat metal sheets.

Announcing this on his arrival yesterday at the Kaduna Airport, the Minister for Steel Development, Malam Mamman Ali Makele told newsmen that the locations of the new steel rolling mills were yet to be decided but would be based on recommendations of a report on the proposed mills expected to be submitted to his ministry soon.

Malam Mamman, who is currently on an official visit to his ministry's projects in Kaduna and Katsina, also announced that the Federal Government has approved an additional expenditure of 4 million Naira for the provision of more facilities. These facilities include access roads, machinery, staff quarters and electricity generating plant for the Katsina Steel Rolling Mill.

The minister dismissed allega-

tions that certain foreign powers were plotting to sabotage the nation's steel industry. He said he did not believe such rumours because it was nationals of these same advanced western countries that were currently engaged in our steel projects.

At Ajaokuta, he said the Russians were manning the steel complex, while at Aladja, Warri in Bendel State and at Katsina, in Kaduna State, the Germans and the Japanese representatives work at such a pace that it is expected that the Katsina Mill, for example, will certainly be commissioned ahead of schedule.

He also announced that his ministry had benefitted immensely from products of the overseas crash technical training scheme embarked upon by the last military administration in the country.

On problems facing his ministry, the minister said, he had no financial constraints but that the various units were faced with managerial difficulties.

WORK REPORTED PARALYZED AT JOS STEEL MILL

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 7 Sep 81 p 32

[Article by M.A. Aliyu Biu]

[Text]

WORK at the Jos Steel Rolling Mill has come to a standstill following the declaration of industrial action by the workers.

The workers are protesting the sacking of 100 of their colleagues by the contractors, Julius Berger Nigeria Ltd. The work stoppage, which started on Thursday, has so far cost Julius Berger 100,000 Naira.

Sources hinted in Jos last Thursday, that the workers embarked on the strike action to compel the company to either stop its decision to sack all the workers or sack all of them.

When this reporter visited the premises last Thursday, a number of anti riot police men in full gear was guarding the place.

Contacted, the Plant Manager of the consortium steel rolling mill, Jos, Mr. H. Malek, referred the New Nigerian to Julius Berger.

The Julius Berger site Manager of the mill, Mr. Horst Krebel confirmed the story and said that they intended to retrench the 100 workers because they are unskilled adding that 85 per cent of the work had been completed, at the Jos Steel Rolling Mill and 'so there is no much work to be done'.

Mr. Krebel said that what led to the strike action was 'communication breakdown.' He further

alleged that the workers were trying to force him to sign a document, which was contrary to the Federal Government's laid down conditions of service, to which the company was implementing religiously.

He said that instead of the workers to channel their requests through their union — the Federation of Building and Civil Engineering Contractors of Nigeria —, they decided to do it individually, but the issue has now been resolved and the workers are now back to work.

The site manager said that the agreed condition of service was that any worker who rendered 2—5 years unbroken service, would receive two weeks pay for each year, 6—10 years, three weeks pay for each year and above eleven years, four weeks pay for each year.

He said that some of the skilled workers would be transferred to Pankshin where the company was currently executing a project, while the unskilled ones, mostly farmers, would be laid off.

COMMENTARY DIFFERENTIATES BETWEEN OPEC, SAUDI ARABIA

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 10 Sep 81 p 1

[Editorial]

[Text]

A consensus of sorts seems to be emerging about Nigeria's continued membership of OPEC. Opinions in newspapers on the subject tend to suggest an antipathy towards OPEC. What is more it seems even some senior federal government officials are beginning to doubt the value of our continued membership.

However, before this consensus builds up and leads to a possible change in policy—for now it is reassuring that no less than the president has said we would remain members—we wish to point out that getting out of OPEC is a very much ill-advised. It is ill-advised on at least

two grounds. First of all it is a static view of things to base one's opinion purely on the situation as it is. These may be hard times for OPEC but they were not so yesterday and therefore, could change for the better tomorrow. Secondly it is obvious that people are annoyed not with OPEC as such but with Saudi Arabia for doing its damnest to render it impotent. But if people are angered by the Saudis, it is wrong to take it out on OPEC. Saudi Arabia with 43 percent of OPEC oil on the market may dominate the organisation, but it is not OPEC and therefore, wrecking OPEC by opting out would only

amount to cutting the nose to spite the face.

We may be helpless now in the face of Saudi Arabia's arm-twisting tactics, but we can take some consolation in the fact that what the Saudi authorities are doing is not in the interest of the Saudi people themselves and therefore, sooner or later a change in policy would have to occur. That may be only some cold comfort for now, but if OPEC wasn't around in 1973 when an opportunity presented itself (in the form of a Middle East crisis) for oil producers to get a fair price for their oil, we would probably still be selling a barrel of it for 9 dollars [about 6 Naira].

WORLD BANK LOAN SIGNED FOR BAUCHI AGRICULTURE

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 14 Sep 81 p 24

[Article by Abubakar Umar]

[Text]

BAUCHI State Government has signed a 300 million Naira loan agreement with the World Bank to finance a large-scale agricultural project in the state. The agreement was signed on behalf of the government by the Nigerian Ambassador to the United States.

However, the proceeds cannot be utilised at the moment until all 'conditions of effectiveness' were met by both the federal and state governments.

The state government has met all but one of the conditions, while the Federal Government is yet to meet two conditions.

According to the Bauchi State Deputy Governor, who is also the Commissioner for Agriculture and Produce Inspection, Alhaji Adamu Tafawa Balewa, while briefing the state House of Assembly on Thursday, the Federal Govern-

ment is yet to draw up the subsidiary loan agreement.

Another condition still to be met by the Federal Government is the provision of a legal opinion on the validity of the project agreement and subsidiary loan agreement.

Alhaji Adamu said on the part of the state government, what remained was the provision of a legal opinion on the validity of the project agreement and subsidiary loan agreement.

He told the legislators that the Bauchi State Agricultural Development Programme (BSADP) is to be jointly funded by the state and federal governments and the World Bank.

Alhaji Adamu said with a joint financing arrangement such as the BSADP, negotiation of agreement and procedures had been complex and time consuming, adding that many innovations had to be included in the operating procedures.

RESETTLEMENT OF 200 FAMILIES IN CROSS RIVER DETAILED

Kaduna SUNDAY NEW NIGERIAN in English 6 Sep 81 p 4

[Article by Gregory Umari Mgbado]

[Text]

THE Cross River Basin Development Authority is to resettle about 200 farm families on the 1,000 hectares of land donated to it by the people of Ukpe, Alege, Okorotung, and Kutia communities of the Obudu local government area.

About 127 hectares of the land has already been cropped by the authority this planting season, the Area Officer-in-Charge, Mr. F.X.S. Agbe, has announced.

He stressed that out of the 127 hectares, 100 hectares (the highest in the state) was cropped with rice, 10 hectares with maize, 10 with cassava, 6 with yam, while one hectare has been developed for vegetable gardening.

Mr. Agbe who was reviewing the progress of his Authority when the Senate President, Dr. Joseph Wayas, stopped over at the Authority's office, said that feasibility studies on the integrated livestock and fisheries projects were now in progress.

He disclosed that the fisheries project had taken off and that work

on the building of an area office block, a store and five residential buildings, have now been completed and the furnishing is in progress.

The officer in charge stressed that the Authority has opened a six-kilometre farm road, and that land-clearing equipment have already reached the site for the development of another 100 hectares of land.

He pointed out that the area, which is to be provided with irrigation facilities, is being surveyed for sprinkler irrigation, adding that the problem of drinking water would soon be over as the Authority has ordered a 50KVA generator for that purpose.

He also disclosed that work on the installation and commissioning of a rapid oil palm processing mill is soon to start.

The second project for Obudu LGA, Mr. Agbe stated, has been located at Basang in Obanliku, where an estimated 1,000 hectares of land has been offered. He pointed out that land development for 1982 has already commenced on it.

'BIGTIME SMUGGLER' REPORTED KILLED, GOODS SEIZED

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 14 Sep 81 p 9

[Text]

GOODS worth over two million Naira were seized by the police at Escravos Bay recently.

A man described as 'a bigtime smuggler' was shot dead in the gun battle that ensued between the marine police and a team of smugglers at Escravos river in Bendel State.

Three of the smugglers were arrested by the police while ten escaped. The name of the deceased was given as Mr. Akatako.

Briefing the New Nigerian, the Deputy Superintendent of Police in charge of marine Warri, Mr. G.I. E. Ojolo said that the police patrol boat ran into the smugglers in the high sea and shouted to them to stop but they refused.

As the patrol boat got nearer, the smugglers opened fire at the police and a shoot-out ensued, during which the smuggler was shot dead. Ten jumped into the river while three were arrested.

The three arrested suspects are

now assisting the police in their investigations.

Among the items seized by the police included 300 cartons of gordon gin, 200 cartons of terry brandy, 500 cartons of white horse, 300 cartons of heinekens can beer and cartons of cigarettes.

Others are bales of second hand clothes, 200 cartons of capstan schnappes, 100 cartons of betola gin, 400 cartons of beefeater gin campari gin and others.

The locally constructed double engine boat, used by the smugglers has been detained at the marine jetty, Warri.

Journalists were shown bullet marks on the police patrol boat when they were conducted round it.

The Inspector of police who led the operation, Mr. William Orutu was being treated at the Warri General Hospital for multiple injuries he sustained during the encounter.

CSO: 4700/19

BRUSSELS PAPER INTERVIEWS PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA

PM220811 Brussels LE SOIR in French 11 Sep 81 p 3

[Interview with Rwanda's President Habyarimana by Etienne Ugeux: "President Habyarimana of Rwanda: 'Belgium Is Well Aware of Our Problems'"—date unspecified]

[Excerpt] After participating in the opening of the UN conference on the least developed countries in Paris at the head of a delegation from his country, the Rwandan president, General Habyarimana, visited Brussels. There he met with Prime Minister Eyskens and Minister of Cooperation for Development Coens, as well as European Commission President Thorn and EEC Development Commissioner Pisani, who all showed excellent feelings toward Rwanda.

Before leaving Brussels President Habyarimana told us that one should not expect immediate results from the Paris conference.

"But its usefulness consists, above all, in making the industrialized countries aware of our problems. This awareness was felt by listening to the different speeches we encountered, particularly that of President Mitterrand. It seems to be Europe which feels essentially concerned, and one must hope that the other industrialized nations will be so, too. But it is too early to pass judgment on the least developed countries conference since its work has not finished.

"I put forward some suggestions in Rwanda's name. I asked the industrialized countries to help us to attain self-sufficiency in food, that is, that we be able to produce more. And also that financial backers help us to draw up planning structures."

"We expressed the wish that bilateral aid be synchronized with the 5-year development plans so that the cooperation thus combined should produce better results. And I also stressed the particularly difficult situation of landlocked countries, that is, those with no direct outlet to the sea."

[Question] You met with Cooperation Minister Coens?

[Answer] The minister was well aware of the essential importance that cooperation must place, especially in an agrarian country like mine, in agricultural development. And we are glad that Mr Coens gave priority to aid for food production. The next joint bilateral cooperation commission will be held in Brussels at the beginning of next year.

[Question] And how about industrialization?

[Answer] Industrialization complements agriculture. In this way we are able to derive byproducts from Lake Kivu's methane gas—fertilizer, for example. The exploitation of Lake Kivu methane gas reserves was at the center of the talks held recently in Rwanda within the framework of the economic community of the countries of the great lakes. And we have decided to accelerate work with President Mobutu, which is important for energy, too.

CSO: 4719/37

PRESIDENT STEVENS DISCUSSES STRIKE CALL

London WEST AFRICA in English 31 Aug 81 pp 1973-74

[Interview with Siaka Stevens, president of Sierra Leone, at his office in Freetown; date not given]

[Text]

Question: I wonder whether I may ask you if you think it is right that trade unionists in Sierra Leone should exert pressure on the government on political matters rather than on wages and work conditions.

Answer: Well, I do not think it is right for them to do so but as the poem says, "All is fair in love and war." And in any case I do not know whether I have a proper definition of right and wrong in these industrial matters. Where you have the right pressures and the numbers, right can be called wrong and vice versa. For me when these things are going, I decide to meet the people and talk things out with them.

Q. The leaders of the Labour Congress have stated that the economic hardship of the people of Sierra Leone are partly due to what they call the "mismanagement" of the government. To what extent is this justified?

A. In my own opinion the bulk of the economic hardships, not only in Sierra Leone but in other parts of Africa and indeed in many other parts of the world, are due to forces outside the control of the government. They are due to such international forces as the escalating price of oil, for us here the lowering of the price paid for exports, such as diamonds which have gone very low indeed, coffee and cocoa. These are trends we have and are still suffering from; only the oil producing countries do not have such difficulties. Of course, there is a certain amount of mismanagement which we are doing our best

to curb, but you must remember this matter of mismanagement is difficult even for older developed countries, let alone we who have only just come into the business. At the same time I am certain that with goodwill, dedication and honesty of purpose among the majority of the people, the management of the affairs of the country will grow better and better as the years go by.

Q. It is widely alleged that corruption is a factor. Is this justified?

A. I have just admitted that a certain amount of mismanagement takes place and I will admit also that corruption is a factor but we are living in a world of human beings and one cannot deny that a certain amount of corruption does take place now and again. The type of political system which is practised in Europe and which we in the former colonies are trying to copy — a policy which I do not think is proper for us — this your system of politics to which I refer, is built on money. The Conservative Party, for example, is built on the philosophy of trade and money. Businessmen, big and small, put in their resources and on these resources the Conservative Party works out its policies. The other big party, the Labour Party, is to a great extent also built on money — if it were not for the contributions from the unions there would hardly be any Labour Party. This is the sort of political philosophy on which, like yourselves, we are trying to build our political party, but we seem to forget that

there are no comparable organisations here such as big businessmen or financially strong unions on which we can build properly such a political philosophy. These are considerations which must not be forgotten when you talk about corruption. Of course, we are doing everything we can to discourage corrupt practices, but sometimes it is necessary to face facts. We are trying here to indulge in the type of political activity without the proper infrastructures and there are bound to be difficulties here and there. We can only hope to get over these difficulties in time and that is why over here, up country when I go on tour, I preach the gospel particularly to our institutions of higher learning that we must begin to do what I call original thinking. Our processes for the past life of colonial development may have been all right in those days but today we must sit down and think out some of these matters so that we may relate them to the conditions surrounding us at the present time. So that mismanagement and corrupt practices I would say are sometimes inherent in the policies which we have copied from your political system. We don't have the necessary infrastructure on which to properly build a political system which we would like to see.

Q. May I ask whether your own experiences as a trade unionist and also as an inspirer of the formation of the SLLC were relevant in the way in which you managed to deal with the crisis.

A. Definitely. My own experience as a trade unionist, I think, was relevant to the way I treated the crisis. I called in the unions representatives so that we could discuss their grievances and their proposals. I certainly know that an exchange of views in matters like this is most important. I tried to explain to the main unions' representatives that even though they may be justified to withhold their labour, yet in our circumstances and the conditions that prevail here, such as no social security pay, no strike pay, with hooligans always ready to join demonstrations, every industrial strike action of theirs must be given serious consideration against the background of our prevailing circumstances and conditions. Also in the exchange of views which I had with the unions' representatives I brought to their notice the fact that the role of trade unions in the colonial era has to be quite different from the role they are now required to play in the independence era in that they are now themselves part and

parcel of government, and the interest of government must take priority over all other sectional interests.

Q. Have you a comment on the way the crisis was reported overseas?

A. Yes, I certainly have some comments. I may be wrong but I think most of the world's press take their cue from the information which is circulated about us through the BBC. So most of the comments I have to make about this matter will necessarily apply to the BBC which, in my opinion, is fast frittering away the very fine reputation which it has built up over the years for fair reporting. Some of us who have been pleading with the British government to reconsider the proposed cuts in BBC international activities are now ready to urge the British government not only to cut, but to cut drastically the activities of the BBC in order to stop them causing more havoc in the reporting of international affairs. In our case during the difficult week which we had here the BBC among other things reported that all flights had been cancelled when in fact no scheduled flights were cancelled. There were delays, of course, but Freetown was not at a standstill as some Europeans here could testify. At such a delicate state in our economic affairs, when we are looking for outside financial help, I do not think a responsible institution like the BBC should report on our activities in the way in which it has. The Focus arm of the BBC finds it convenient when it wants information about Sierra Leone to talk on the telephone to the only opposition paper we have in the country which is always criticising the government and sometimes interviews people like Mr. Tinga Sesay, who they very well know was a consul of Sierra Leone in the United States of America, and with whom we parted not for excellent work. It may well be that the BBC has obliterated its usefulness so we could expect anything from them from now on.

As a general observation against the points which I have made I must say here that the salary and wages structure which you have bequeathed to us at independence was not in the interests of industrial peace and stability in the former colonies and we, the present African government, must do everything possible, as early as possible, to put a ceiling on the top scales of remuneration, while lifting up the bottom categories as quickly as possible. I say so because, as you are probably aware, wages and salary scales in most parts of

Europe are proportionately structured; by that, I mean take a hypothetical group of people, where the labourer gets £1 a day, the headman 25s., the mechanic will get about 30s., foreman machanic 35s., a senior staff man 40s. etc., etc. That is to say one salary scale has a relationship to another salary scale, from the top to the bottom. Of course, I appreciate you need special fees for expertise, but on the whole, apart from social services and social security, there is a basic structure for the bottom labour group, and from there on you proportionately allocate different kinds of salaries for the different groups. During the colonial period, however, when the people at the top agitated for better conditions and salaries, the Europeans incorporated them in their own group, sometimes calling them senior service officers, both in the matter of salaries and other benefits, leaving the bulk of the workers down the ladder. The situation has resulted in a very wide gap in the salary structure in this country and I find it is the very people who created this situation who now criticise and laugh at us when we have difficulties in our industrial relations. It is in our own interests to rectify this anomalous situation as early as possible, which now and again rears its ugly head in different ways in different forms of industrial unrest.

Q. What is your reaction to the events in The Gambia?

A. Events in The Gambia made me think about a statement that Nkrumah made years before he died. He advocated a United States of Africa. So when I heard President Jawara talking about relations between his country and Senegal, my mind worked in that direction. I was making a speech once in the Republic of Guinea,

talking about tribalism and other things like that, when I said, "Do you know what is called a super power?" They said "no," and I said it was a conglomeration of tribes. The sooner we start thinking in that direction — instead of us in Sierra Leone talking of Temnes, Lokos, Mendes and so on — the better it will be for us. The world today is no place for mini-states.

Knowing how small my own country is, I talk guardedly when I go to these big conferences. It may well be that we will begin to think about coming together. Of course, we realise that the Gambian business is for the Gambian people; these are just my own broad observations. But I am glad that the President is thinking along those lines. In these days a really fast jet plane hardly rises from Monrovia before it has passed Freetown, so that you have to stop in one or the other — you cannot stop in both. The lessons of the superpowers are lessons which we should learn. If you go to Russia you will see all types of people. We in the smaller powers will have to think about the way we divide ourselves. I don't know whether we should not start to copy what the British were trying to do here. In the old days, as I remember, we had a West African Frontier Force, a West Africa Currency Board, and other things. Of course, we are now moving in that direction. We have medical conferences now to which people come from Nigeria and other areas; we must learn that there are some things you simply cannot do in isolation. This is the view I take about development. The colonial powers left us divided, one tribe into three parts, a third of it in Liberia, a third of it in Guinea and a third of it in Sierra. It is time we started thinking about coming more together.

BENEFITS OF TRAINING YOUTH IN PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES STRESSED

Dar es Salaam UHURU in Swahili 16 Sep 81 p 6

[Editorial: "Our Views"]

[Summary] A nation which has a good system for preparing and using well its youth can obtain rapid development. A nation which leaves its youth without preparation for good leadership cannot be expected to obtain real community development.

Thus, we feel the system which the JKT [National Development Army] has begun to carry out consisting of the provision of various types of training for youths who have completed class seven in villages deserves congratulations. The junior minister of defense and national service, Stephen Kibona, said in Dar es Salaam the day before yesterday that the JKT began to implement this system in July and August this year in 10 villages.

Under this system youths who have completed primary education will be developed by teaching them productive activities including farming, fishing, stockraising, technology, etc. The JKT will conduct this training in cooperation with various experts in the villages.

When youths have been trained how to produce goods, income will be increased and the condition of the economy will be changed. Also youths who have completed primary education will be liberated. Many seem to flounder if they cannot do useful work. Some of them have gone to the city where they enter into work which is not beneficial for their lives or fall into criminal activities. Youths who receive training will know how to develop their lives by self-reliance in the villages.

However, a matter which must be borne in mind is that the objective of this nation is to build socialism and all training of youth must be directed toward preparing good builders of socialism.

CSO: 4749/2

BRIEFS

DEATHS IN MILITARY OPERATION--Kampala, September 9--At least 26 people are now reported to have died in a military operation mounted against opponents of the Ugandan Government in and around the Wakiso township, 10 miles (16 kms) west of here. Sources within the opposition Democratic Party (DP) today said at least eight bullet-riddled bodies had been found and already buried since the operation began on Saturday. Other reports said an additional 18 bodies had been found. Witnesses who fled the area on Monday spoke today of scores of homes being destroyed and looted by the Army and indiscriminate shooting as villagers fled for their lives into the jungle. The DP-owned vernacular weekly paper MUNNANZI (Citizen) today reported at least 16 confirmed deaths in the operation. It quoted witnesses who said that other casualties would bring the death-toll about 30 with more than 100 injured. More than 200 homes had been looted, according to the witnesses. MUNNANZI also reported seven civilian casualties at Kawanda village on the Kampala outskirts on Saturday in another operation by the Ugandan Army. The Government of President Milton Obote has declined to make any comment on the operation since it began five days ago. (A.F.P.) [Text] [Paris AFRICA AFP in English No 2827, 11 Sep 81 p 20]

TANZANIANS QUIT ROADBLOCKS--Kampala, September 9--Tanzanian policemen have disappeared from roadblocks in the Ugandan capital over the past week, in a move seen here as a protest against growing Army indiscipline. Several hundred Tanzanian policemen stayed on here for security duties after their Army colleagues withdrew home at the end of June, and their duties have included joint roadblocks with Ugandan police and escorting Ugandan soldiers on anti-guerrilla duties in Urban areas to prevent looting. The Tanzanians spearheaded the 1979 war to oust Idi Amin. The reported protest follows an attack by the Ugandan Army last week on Wandegaya police station, near Kampala's Makerere University. [Excerpt] [Paris AFRICA AFO in English No 2827, 11 Sep 81 p 20]

CSO: 4700/20

ZAIRE

BRIEFS

MOBUTU TO SUE GROUP--Brussels, Thursday--President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire is suing a group of Zairean dissidents in the Belgian courts following a demonstration at his private house in Brussels. A Zaire Embassy spokesman said today the action relates to an incident 10 days ago in which demonstrators protesting against the release from a Belgian prison of Jean Foster Manzikala, former Governor of Zaire's Shaba Province, surrounded Gen. Mobutu's house in a prosperous suburb here. The complaint states that the protesters trespassed on and damaged Mobutu's property, the spokesman said.--Reuter [Text] [Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 4 Sep 81 p 32]

CSO: 4700/20

SWEDES SIGN \$13 MILLION AID ACCORD

Salisbury THE HERALD in English 25 Sep 81 p 1

[Article by Gareth Willard]

[Text]

SWEDEN and Zimbabwe have signed an agreement under which Sweden will provide about \$13m. in development aid during the present financial year.

 STOCKHOLM

Under the agreement Sweden will provide almost \$4 million for a reconstruction programme with a similar content as that funded last year.

The money would be used for such things in Zimbabwe as the repair of schools and clinics and refugee rehabilitation, a Swedish government spokesman said.

About \$1.3m would be tied to paying for Swedish personnel and consultants, while a similar sum would be tied to imports from Sweden.

Half the money, more than \$6.5m, was set aside for rural development in Zimbabwe and a programme was now being prepared in Zimbabwe by a team of experts from the Swedish Development Agency.

The money, said the spokesman, would go towards the development of telecommunications, education and health services, among other projects.

Sweden gave humanitarian aid to the liberation movements during the war and another \$8.2m was channelled to Zimbabwe after independence.

About \$650 000 was set aside in a fund for personnel and consultants.

The reconstruction aid was used for the rehabilitation of refugees and the reconstruction of war-damaged buildings, especially schools and houses. Health facilities were also aided.

Thanking the Swedish Prime Minister, Mr Faell-

din, for the generous assistance from the government and people of Sweden, the Prime Minister, Mr Mugabe, said the refugee rehabilitation programme had been successfully completed last year.

Mr Mugabe told journalists at a news conference that he had no objection to 50 percent of the aid being tied to hiring Swedish consultants and buying Swedish goods.

"Sweden is not telling us we have to buy Phoska or Mash. She is simply saying that, for 50 percent of the money, we should consider hiring Swedish experts or buying Swedish goods."

MINISTRY STEPS IN AS STRIKERS MARCH ON COMPANY

Salisbury THE HERALD in English 25 Sep 81 p 1

[Text]

MORE than 300 striking workers at Irvine's Day Old Chicks in Salisbury yesterday marched on the firm demanding better pay and better working conditions.

They refused to listen to a Ministry of Labour official, Mr Robert Gwanya, and massed at the firm's premises chanting protest songs.

They said they would listen to the labour official only after he had discussed their grievances with management. The strike which began on Tuesday is the third this year.

The manager, Mr David Irvine, declined to comment yesterday and he added, Mr F. J. Jones, Republican Front MP for Marlborough, was not available.

Mr Ernest Mashara, a member of the workers' committee, complained that although the firm was engaged in meat processing, its conditions

were classified as farm workers and paid only \$30 a month.

"Some of us live in the townships and have to pay rent. We buy our own food because we are not given rations as on farms and we have school-going children. The \$30 is just not enough."

He said the management did not consult the workers' committee on issues such as sackings and the compound had no toilet facilities.

"I have been here for 11 years and I still have to use the bush. Our children suffer from many diseases because of the unsanitary conditions in which we have to live," said one mother.

Mr Gwanya and the management came to an agreement to raise the workers' wages from next month — the amount to be discussed at a meeting between the management and the workers' committee.

But the workers refused to recognise the agreement until it was put in writing, saying previous verbal agreements had not been honoured.

The workers threatened violence unless a written agreement was produced and marched into the premises. They were persuaded to leave by the workers' committee.

After another round of negotiations involving the workers' committee, the management and Mr Gwanya, a written agreement was reached. The parties said they would meet again on October 6 to discuss the rates.

⊙ A strike by about 100 workers at Botwayo's Lobels factory entered its second day yesterday with no apparent end in sight. The secretary of the workers' committee, Mr Lameck Rusape, said the workers were demanding more pay and a review of their grades.

MORTGAGE RATES GO UP STEEPLY

Salisbury THE HERALD in English 25 Sep 81 p 1

[Text]

MORTGAGE rates were substantially raised yesterday by building societies following last week's 3 percent increase in the bank rate.

The Building Societies Association announced that a 12.5 percent interest rate will apply to houses under \$12 000 and 13.25 percent to those at \$12 000 and above.

Bonds on non-owner occupied homes rise to 13.75 percent and on commercial properties to 14.75 percent.

The changes, arrived at after two meetings with senior Reserve Bank officials, mean that someone with an outstanding mortgage of \$10 000 will have to pay an extra \$26.70 a month. With a \$20 000 bond the increase will be \$58.40.

In the first case the basic monthly repayment goes up from \$82.30 to \$109 and the latter from \$171.20 to \$229.60.

A spokesman for the association said that to cushion the immediate effects of the increases bondholders would be given the option of spreading the extra payments over the next 18 months.

Details of this and the new rates will be posted to existing borrowers within the next few days.

Explaining the changes the spokesman said: "Building society rates are set in full consultation with the Reserve Bank."

The change in the bank rate caused our stock values to drop by about 1.5 percent. Liquidity was reduced by a discounting of government stocks held by the societies, and now stands at 23 percent, just 3 percent above the institutional requirement.

"Building societies are not lending until such time as the situation is reviewed in relation to funds," the spokesman added.

The new rates, he said, had virtually brought mortgage rates in Zimbabwe into line with the rest of the world.

New savings and deposit rates show even larger rises. Savings account are up from 4.3 percent to 7.75

percent and paid-up permanent shares from 7.75 percent to 11.25 percent.

Fixed deposit holders will be given an option of transferring existing funds to new fixed deposits for periods of 12 to 23 months at 9.75 percent or 24 months at 10 percent, or to re-invest in paid-up permanent shares.

Longer periods for fixed deposits have been scrapped.

SAVINGS

Savings certificates on three months' notice have been increased to 8 percent from 5 percent; six months' notice to 8.25 percent (5.25 percent) and nine-months' notice to 8.5 percent (5.5 percent).

Subscription shares of 24 to 35 months rise to 9 percent; 36 to 59 months—10 percent; 60 months and over—10.25 percent.

Fixed period shares are also up from 7 percent to 10.5 percent.

Commercial banks have already fixed new prime and savings rates after talks late last week with the governor of the Reserve Bank, Dr Desmond Krogh.

Overdrafts now cost 13 percent and savings earn 7 percent interest. There was still no news yesterday from the finance houses on new hire purchase charges, or the Post Office Savings Bank on its tax-free deposit rates.

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OFFICIAL CLAIMS MILITARY TRAINING 'VITAL' FOR YOUTHS

Salisbury THE HERALD in English 25 Sep 81 p 11

[Text]

IT is vital that youths throughout the country undergo military training, said the Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Services, Mr Robson Manyika, yesterday.

Addressing a large meeting in the Mwa communal lands, south-west of Kariba, Mr Manyika said: "We have enemies inside and outside, and youth must be trained so that they can protect their country in the case of an invasion."

He told the audience they should resist any anti-Government propaganda by opposition parties.

There was a move by some political parties to "subvert our development programme", he claimed.

"We, as a Government,

fought for this country and we no longer want to see any bloodshed. What we strive for is peace," he said.

"But if anyone provokes us we will definitely act and rout them."

Amid applause, Mr Manyika said there was a need for Zimbabweans to be vigilant and detect the Government's enemies.

"Now that the country is free I don't see why some officials of political parties should engage in subversive activity. It is time for us to work together."

ZANU (PF) wanted all parties to genuinely participate in national development. But some parties were taking this attitude "as weakness on our part" and engaging in subversion.

CSO: 4700/22

ZCTU BOSS CALLED IN AS ATHOL EVANS STAFF PROTESTS

Salisbury THE HERALD in English 25 Sep 81 p 6

[Text]

THE secretary-general of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions, Mr Albert Mugabe, was yesterday called to intervene in a dispute between the workers and management of the Athol Evans Hospital Home.

The dispute arose when a worker, Miss Chipa Joseph, was dismissed. The manager of the Salvation Army-run hospital, Captain Gordon Howard, refused to disclose the reasons for Miss Joseph's dismissal.

But workers said she was dismissed after retaliating against an assault by a visitor to the hospital.

Workers at the hospital struck last month for better conditions and repeated their demands yesterday.

The demands include the:

- Dismissal of Captain Howard and his wife.
- Reinstatement of their dismissed colleague.
- Nationalisation of the hospital by the Government.

The workers met during their lunch hour yesterday, and complained to Mr Mugabe of bad and unfair treatment.

They said medical assistants were required to buy their own uniforms; to work an extra half-hour for being five minutes late; they were not paid overtime; and patients and staff were often rude and insulting.

A medical assistant and her colleague often had to care for 34 patients while on night shift, they added.

Workers were told they were lazy, and if they had complaints they could take them to their Government.

"Take your means to your Government, ZANU (PF) is not in control here," was a common response to their complaints, the workers said.

Mr Mugabe said he would be seeking a meeting between the hospital's workers' committee, the management, and the Salvation Army Headquarters.

GOVERNMENT CONTROLS ALARM MINES IN ZIMBABWE

Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 16 Sep 81 p 15

[Article by John Mulcahy]

[Text]

THE mining industry in Zimbabwe has expressed concern at the growing degree of government controls being applied or contemplated for the mining sector.

After the Minister of Finance, Mr Enos Nkala, said in his Budget speech that the tax allowance on capital expenditure had been reduced to 30% from 100%, a director of a multinational mining company with interests in Zimbabwe said the legislation would render 90% of new investment in mining unprofitable.

It added to the prohibitive restrictions on remittances of dividends, which some companies had complained were controlled on an arbitrary basis, and the legal requirements were inconsistent.

The restrictions on remittances include a limit of 50% of earnings to be distributed as dividends, that audited accounts have to accompany any remittance application; that dividends must relate to current earnings, and a company is prevented from going into borrowings to pay dividends.

All these requirements are regarded as reasonable because of a developing nation's need to limit outflows of profits, but in many cases remittance applications complying with the requirements have been turned down arbitrarily.

In some cases the rules have been relaxed in response to representations from Zimbabwean shareholders, who said they would be prejudiced by an enforced conservatism in dividend declarations.

The announcement by the Zimbabwe Government that it will set up a State-owned minerals marketing agency, the Minerals Marketing Corporation (MMC), has provoked fears of nationalisation, which the Government has tried to allay.

The Government is justifiably suspicious of profits being made outside Zimbabwe, and some multinationals have the reputation of arranging shipments and billings to suit them and minimise export tax.

The formation of MMC appears to be aimed at vertically integrated multinationals, which sell a big proportion of their products to parent companies overseas, and whose export practices are difficult to monitor without direct control of the marketing function.

The authorities have said that MMC will have a monitoring function over the mining industry, but its powers go far beyond this and give the Minister of Mines extensive powers over the industry.

They amount to a takeover of the entire commercial function of the mining industry by MMC.

The relationship between seller and buyer of any mined product, whether copper or chrome, cobalt or ferrochrome, is delicate, involving a high degree of trust which relies on an element of personal trust between the negotiating principals, assuring at all times commercially just, but constructive relationships between buyer and seller.

Commenting on the MMC, the London Metal Bulletin

agrees with the wisdom of monitoring to prevent abuses, but suggests that in a country "where every development penny is so essential", Zimbabwe should think twice before taking such a fundamental course of action.

The Bulletin warns that there is potentially much more that can go wrong with Zimbabwe's sales of its mineral products, consequent on a change in its national sales effort of such magnitude.

"It is a plain commercial fact that very, very few state trading organisations make a better job of selling than do the corresponding private enterprise sellers from whom they took over."

Assuring social equity from the revenues of the national productive effort is the concern of any democratic government, but this is a different matter from sheer efficiency in getting the best overall return for the national product, which is where the MMC would be concerned.

An ominous sign is that "at least two members" of MMC's

nine member marketing board should have some previous expertise in marketing. The implication that nearly 80% of the MMC will comprise bureaucrats casts doubts on the body's efficacy in negotiation.

Many marketing decisions are required to be made on the spur of the moment to close a deal, and the unwieldy size of the MMC board is likely to interfere with the marketing process.

As one SA mining man put it this week: "Committees are notorious in achieving little in a long period — it is well known that a camel is merely a horse designed by a committee".

The consequences of an inferior commercial performance by Zimbabwe's new organisation goes further than simple "revenue today, profit tomorrow" — it extends to the area of investment in future mineral and mineral-related activity.

Zimbabwe is attractive to mining companies, and can use more investment in developing its mineral wealth, but next to the threat of nationalisation, there is nothing so likely to turn away an investor as the

thought that production will not be marketed to the best advantage.

An added problem in the MMC is that it will effectively eliminate the middleman, on the surface a proposition to be welcomed in any industry.

But in Zimbabwe, where middle men, such as Derby Metals and Associated Metals, cater for the "small worker" their demise can only be counter-productive.

These agents are prepared to accept small parcels of minerals from small producers and market them. This allows the small workers, or prospectors, to develop prospects to a stage where bigger companies can economically move in and develop reserves on a bigger scale.

Markets are found all over the world for these small parcels of commodities, and at the same time an effective exploration industry is kept going.

For all of these reasons Zimbabwe would be well advised to reconsider its apparent determination to exercise dogmatic control over the mining industry.

BRIEFS

PARTY PLANS ELECTIONS--The Minister of Information and Tourism, Dr Nathan Shamuyarira will be among ZANU (PF) provincial party officials who will attend the party's elections for Mashonaland sub-districts on Sunday, the Zimbabwe Information Service reports. The elections will be held in Gatooma, Hartley, Sinoia, Karof and Kariba. All ZANU (PF) sub-districts in the Mashonaland Rural Council area are invited to attend. There will also be a rally by the Women's League tomorrow at Chinhoyi Hall, Sinoia, which will be addressed by the Deputy Minister of Community Development and Women's Affairs, Dr Naomi Nhwatiwa, and Miss Sabina Mugabe. [Text] [Salisbury THE HERALD in English 25 Sep 81 p 1]

MAWEMA IN EUROPE--The Deputy Minister of Roads and Road Traffic, Posts and Telecommunications, Mr Nelson Mawema, left Salisbury yesterday for a 14-day tour of Holland, Italy, France, Sweden and Britain. During his tour the minister will hold talks with governments of the five countries on exchange programmes, as well as examine equipment of use to Zimbabwe. He will also finalise arrangements for the training of technical personnel to maintain this equipment. A statement said that the minister would inspect roads, bridges and road construction equipment and explore possibilities of grants-in-aid for feasibility studies and road construction equipment. In France he will examine possibilities of French aid to Zimbabwe and examine telecommunication equipment for rural areas. In Sweden he will discuss progress on the microwave and international gateway exchange process and make arrangements for personnel to maintain this equipment. Mr Mawema is expected back in Salisbury on October 10.--Ziana [Text] [Salisbury THE HERALD in English 25 Sep 81 p 4]

KENYAN TRADE LINKS--A visiting representative of the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce, Mr Timothy Ramtu, yesterday called for the establishment of "tangible economic relations" for the mutual benefit of Zimbabwe and Kenya. Addressing the annual meeting of the Salisbury Chamber of Commerce, he said an opportunity existed for business communities in Kenya and Zimbabwe to develop commercial ties. Mr Ramtu said Zimbabwe had a lot to offer Kenya by way of processed food, manufactured and raw materials. [Text] [Salisbury THE HERALD in English 25 Sep 81 p 4]

MAPUTO IN KEY TALKS--The Mozambique minister of justice, Mr Teodato Hungwana, arrived in Salisbury yesterday for talks with the Government. Mr Hungwana, who is leading a two-man delegation, will meet ministers, including the Acting Minister of Justice, Dr Eddison Zvobgo and the Home Affairs, Minister, Mr Richard

Hove. No details were given, but Mr Hungwana described the talks as "crucial." The Mozambique delegation returns home next week.--Ziana [Text] [Salisbury THE HERALD in English 25 Sep 81 p 3]

AIR FORCE 'JOBS BAN'--The Government has stopped former air force personnel from working with any other Government or parastatal body and banned the private aircraft industry from employing them within six months of their leaving the air force, it was claimed yesterday. The allegations, in the form of a question for Dr Freddie Shava, the Minister of Manpower Planning and Development, are on the order paper for the Assembly today. Mr Richard Cartwright (RF, Hatfield) also says in his question that instructions forbidding "time-expired air force service-men" from serving in either the Government or a parastatal body are posted in station standing orders at the Zimbabwe Air Force Headquarters in Salisbury. He asks Dr Shava "whether he is aware that skilled aircraft technicians are being forced to leave the country because of this embargo." The Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Richard Hove, is also to answer questions from Bishop Joshua Dube (ZANU-PF, Manicaland) on whether he is considering changes to Government regulations "which prevents" many ministers of religion from becoming marriage officers. [Text] [Salisbury THE HERALD in English 25 Sep 81 p 11]

ACCORDS PLANNED--Double taxation agreements between Zimbabwe and other countries of the world would be drawn up in the future, the Deputy Minister of Finance, Dr Oliver Munyaradzi, disclosed in the Assembly. Dr Munyaradzi told the House earlier that the only country with which Zimbabwe had a double taxation agreement was South Africa. Mr Paddy Shields (RF, Bulawayo Central) said this would inhibit people from investing in this country. Dr Munyaradzi said that people from those countries with which there was no double taxation agreement would be taxed both here and in their own countries. "Double taxation agreements are entered into with various countries at various times. The fact that we have only one is something that we have inherited from the past, and we are now in the process of negotiating double taxation agreements with other countries," the deputy minister said. [Text] [Salisbury THE HERALD in English 25 Sep 81 p 11]

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